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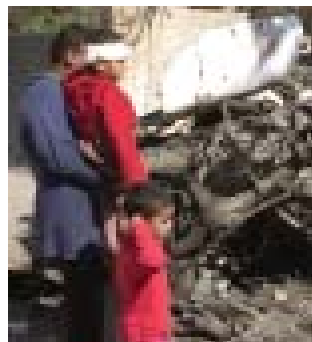
INSIDE



Cancelled Flights

Five U.S.-bound flights from Britain and France were canceled Saturday because of security concerns. The U.S. government said it had fresh indications of al-Qaida's continued interest in targeting commercial planes flying to the United States.

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US Fatalities

Three U.S. soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division were killed Saturday in a roadside bombing near the northern oil center of Kirkuk. Their deaths brought to 522 the number of American service members who have died since the Iraq war began March 20.

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VIRTUE OF THE WEEK

Idealism

"Let your acts be a guide unto all mankind... Through them the brightness of your light can be shed upon the whole earth."

— Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 521

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Land compensation funds out

CDA, MPLA to release initial money to landowners

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER



EDITH ALEJANDRO

MISS TEEN ASPIRANTS

Miss Teen CNMI 2003 Remylyn Julene Guerrero, with crown, poses with this year's Saipan candidates, who were presented to the public Saturday. They are, from left, Chanel Cabrera, Divana Dela Cruz, Christal Leon Guerrero, Jerbeth De Leon, and Jocelyn Castro. Candidates from Rota and Tinian will be presented at a later date. **Story on Page 5.**

See LAND on Page 8

Most ex-SU students are now factory workers

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

Former Saipan University students ended up as contract workers, working mostly now in garment factories after the government issued them temporary work authorizations or TWAs.

Left to themselves, the former students are barely making both ends

meet after they were asked to vacate an SU-assigned housing late last month.

Wang Rui, who has served as spokesperson for the group, said he and a friend share a small room in Chalan Kanoa.

He said he could survive because he borrowed \$200 from a former classmate who has found work ahead of him.

Wang, a former electrical firm manager in China, said that he is still

waiting for a prospective employer to call him in. He said, though, that his potential work is not exactly related to his field.

Wang said that as far he knows, most of the 84 former SU students have found work on island. "Most of them are working in garment factory," said Wang.

Wang said they have decided to stay on island pending the resolution of their

See MOST on Page 8

CDA to NMC: Clarify position on Gateway funding

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority wants Northern Marianas College to be single-minded on which agency it actually wants to deal with for its funding needs for the Pacific Gateway Project.

NMC is currently speaking with at least three local agencies—Marianas Public Lands Trust, NMI Retirement Fund, and the CDA—for interim financing for the project, while also seeking a direct loan with the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development.

"We want to know where they [NMC] are. If NMC wants MPLT or

NMIRF, go ahead. Don't negotiate with more people because it's going to cost government assets. It would require evaluation and this means spending for the project," said CDA board chairman Sixto Igisomar.

He said CDA "is willing to be the last resort."

See CDA on Page 8

Dead dolphin found to have fed on seagrass

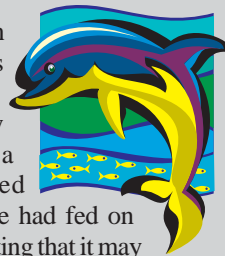
By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

Are dolphins on CNMI's waters starving?

An autopsy conducted on a dolphin showed that the creature had fed on seagrass, indicating that it may have had difficulty in catching fish for its prey.

Dolphins are fast-moving aquatic mammals, the jaws of which contain as many as 250 conical teeth. Their teeth are adapted for ripping and tearing prey, not for chewing.

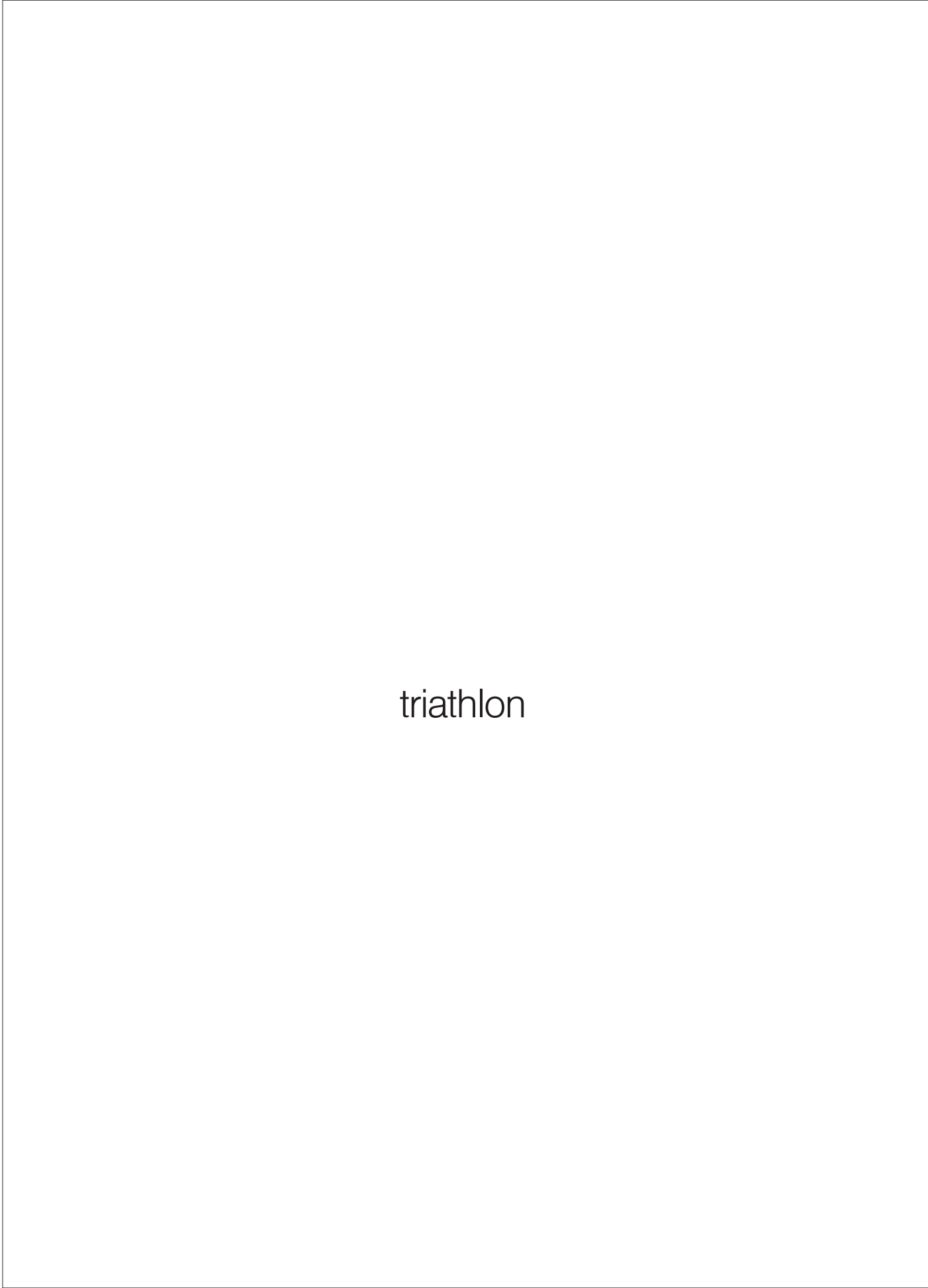
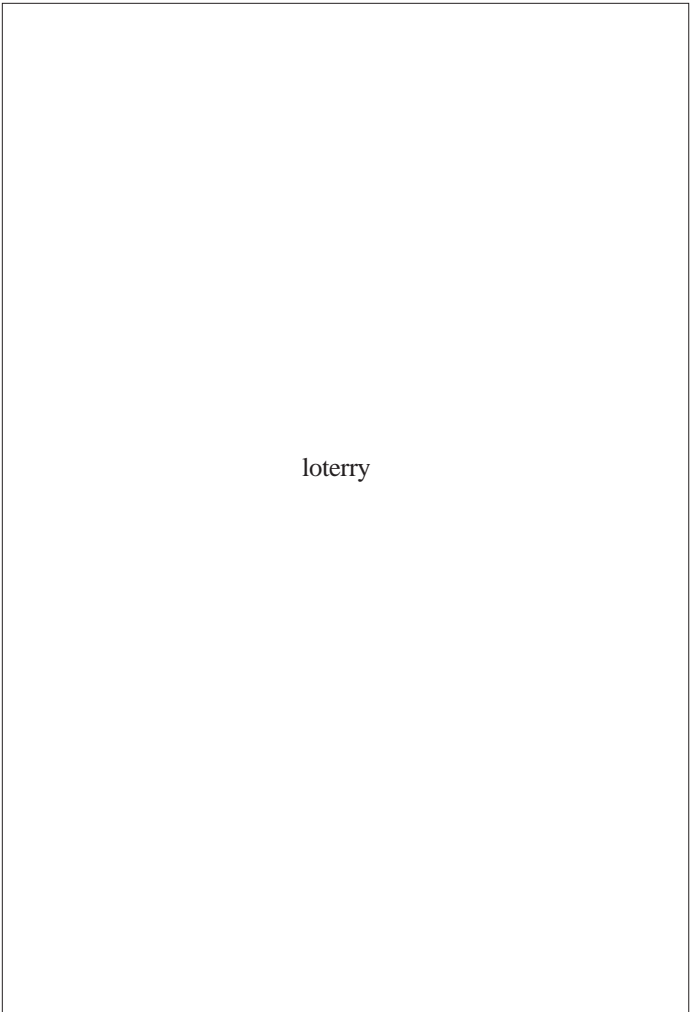
See DEAD on Page 8



Local

cosmos
+magenta/
blue

gardenia
+red



CDA: No findings yet on Palau Air

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority board of directors has begun its feasibility study on Palau Micronesia Air following the CNMI's commitment to invest \$500,000 in the newly established airline.

CDA officials, who flew to Palau last week, said the agency has yet to make a full evaluation of the project.

CDA board chairman Sixto Igisomar, who convened a board meeting Saturday, said the issue is now being handled by a joint panel: the public finance committee headed by member Edwin Hofschneider and the economic development committee headed by Tom Quitugua.

"The board has not fully evaluated the project. We'll wait for the recommendation by the joint committee," said Igisomar.

Igisomar said the board, together with CDA executive director Mary Lou Ada, had a "very hectic" three-day visit to Palau as part of the project evaluation.

He said the CDA team met with Palau government leaders led by President Tommy Remengesau, as well as Palau Micronesia Air executives.

He said that CDA will forward its findings to the

Governor's Office as soon as possible.

The CNMI Legislature earlier approved a joint resolution supporting the release of \$500,000 to PMA. In particular, the Legislature tasked CDA to borrow the money on behalf of the government from a regional bank, Pacific Islands Development Bank. The money would be used to buy 5,000 shares of capital stock from the airline firm.

Under the resolution, the CNMI government will shoulder the loan repayments.

The resolution also listed conditional provisions before the CDA can proceed with the borrowing:

■ CDA must first evaluate the propriety and prudence of borrowing the half-million dollars, and identify where the money to repay the loan would come from.

■ The funding source for the repayment of the loan must be approved by the Legislature through a bill.

■ The legal ownership of the stocks may be vested in the CNMI government or in any of its constituent entities.

■ The Palau government has to first put up the \$1 million it has committed to the new airline firm before the CNMI releases its investment share.

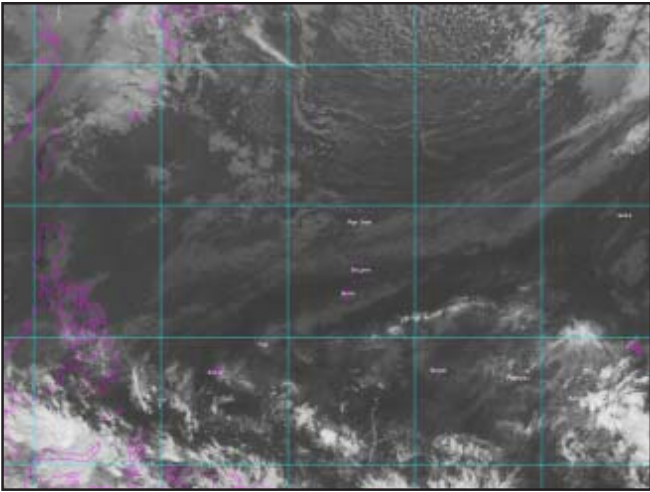
The CNMI government's half-million-dollar equity investment in the new airline would entitle it to 10 percent of the company's shares of common stocks and two seats on the firm's Board of Directors.

Airline president Alan R. Seid said the money is needed to start the company, build the profit margin, and provide a strong reserve for the future.

Palau Micronesia Air is a corporation chartered under the laws of the Republic of Palau. It had issued 50,000 shares of stocks valued at \$100 per share, for a total initial capitalization of \$5 million.

The airline firm has been seeking subscribers for its stocks from among governments and individuals in the region. So far it has obtained commitments for \$1.52 million in initial investment from private sources in Palau and Japan; \$500,000 from the Yapese government; \$1 million commitment from the Palauan government as a portion of Palau's pending loan from the International Commercial Bank of China (Taiwan); \$500,000 commitment from the Pohnpeian government; and \$600,000 reserved for subscription by people in the region.

WEATHER FORECAST



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 A.M., FEBRUARY 1, 2004
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough stretches from near 2n137e to the equator near 152e. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough are located south of Palau and Yap between the Equator and 5n from 130e to 144e. A weak trough of low pressure stretches from 7n167e to the equator near 170e. The trough combined with trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers in the southern Marshall Islands south of Majuro between the Equator and 6n from 167e to 180. A frontal system extends southwestward from near 25n157e to near 18n145e then continues as a shear line to near 14n130e. Extensive low clouds and widespread light showers are occurring along and up to 300 miles north of the boundary. Ahead of this boundary...an area of low clouds with light showers are occurring across the Mariana Islands.



SAIPAN AND TINIAN
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 mph.



GUAM AND ROTA
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 mph.



PALAU
Partly cloudy.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 kt.



POHNPEI
Partly cloudy.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 kt.



YAP AND ULITHI
Partly cloudy.
Winds: Northeast 10-15 kt.



KOSRAE
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 15 kt.



CHUUK
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 15 kt.



MAJURO
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: East at 15-20 kt.

CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
Auckland	Cloudy	76F (24C)	61F (16C)
Beijing	Rain	45F (7C)	25F (-4C)
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	66F (19C)	59F (15C)
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83F (28C)	71F (22C)
London, England	Partly Cloudy	52F (11C)	46F (8C)
Los Angeles	Sunny	66F (19C)	44F (7C)
Manila	Partly Cloudy	86F (30C)	68F (20C)
Melbourne	Cloudy	69F (21C)	46F (8C)
Miami	Rain	80F (27C)	64F (18C)
New York City	Sunny	32F (0C)	24F (-4C)
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	42F (6C)	25F (-4C)
Paris	Partly Cloudy	49F (9C)	41F (5C)
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	53F (12C)	38F (3C)
Rome	Cloudy	54F (12C)	45F (7C)
Salem, Oregon	Showers	46F (8C)	38F (3C)
San Francisco	Cloudy	53F (12C)	48F (9C)
Seoul	Cloudy	43F (4C)	25F (-4C)
Tokyo, Japan	Partly Cloudy	42F (6C)	32F (0C)
Washington, DC	Sunny	34F (1C)	24F (-4C)

Saipan Community School's honor roll in its 2nd quarter

Grade 6:
"A" Honor Roll – 3.50-3.99 GPA
Adeleyah Mojica
Micaela Demapan
Gyu Ri Kim

"B" Honor Roll – 3.00-3.49 GPA
Do Hee Kim
Kay Park
Lissane Loyola
Isabel Matsunaga
Sayaka Shimizu
Federico Fernandez

Grade 7:
"A" Honor Roll – 3.50-3.99 GPA
Champ Untalan
Min Sol Kim
Sung Hee An
Rezne Wong
Victoria Bellas

"B" Honor Roll – 3.00-3.49 GPA
J.D. Torres
Seong Bin Lee
Jason Quiblat
Min Joo Jung
Dencio Manglona

Grade 8:
Principal's List – 4.00 GPA
O'Ronia Sikayun

"A" Honor Roll – 3.50-3.99 GPA
Soo Ji Ha
Soleana Demapan

"B" Honor Roll – 3.00-3.49 GPA
Wen Hui Ye
Vianka Johnson
Nam Hoon Kim
Luis Chung

2004 Miss Teen CNMI candidates presented

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

Give way to the five Saipan candidates vying for the 2004 Miss Teen CNMI crown as they unveiled their plans, dreams, and hopes in joining this year's competition.

The five candidates were presented to the public Saturday at the Multi-Purpose Center, where they took center stage to talk about how they plan to help the CNMI's youths through various community-based activities.

This year's candidates are Divana Dela Cruz, Christal Leon Guerrero, Chanel Cabrera, Jerbeth De Leon, and Jocelyn Castro. Winners of the Miss Teen Tinian and Miss Teen Rota would be joining the Saipan candidates during the April 17, 2004 coronation night.

According to Miss Teen CNMI president Noby Crisostomo, Tinian and Rota would have their own Ms. Teen contests—a first—and winners of these contests would be sent to Saipan for the Miss Teen CNMI tilt.

With this year's theme "Bonitas de Islas Marianas," Crisostomo hopes to highlight during the pageant the Spanish influence on the local culture.

"This year's theme is Spanish so we can highlight that part of our culture and tradition that was imparted by the Spaniards. We also hope to bring here what we learned from the Miss Antillas beauty contest," Crisostomo explained.

Miss Teen CNMI 2003 Remeylyn Julene Guerrero had competed in the Miss Antillas International Beauty Pageant in Venezuela, where she won second place.

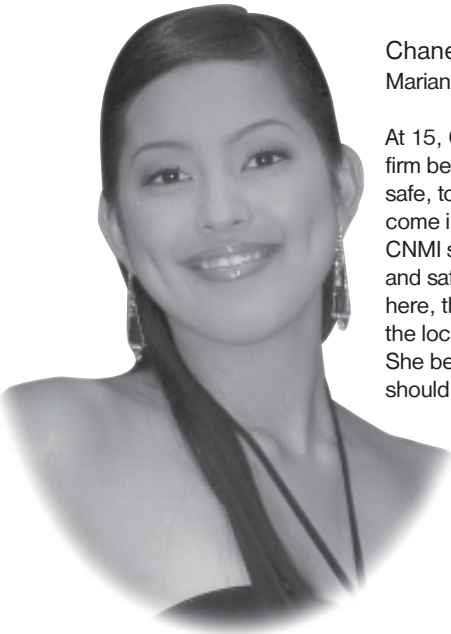
Also present during the media presentation Saturday was House Rep. Janet Maratita, who advised all contestants to face their fears and mistakes. Maratita also vowed to find ways on how to make Miss Teen CNMI candidates active in various community events.

Crisostomo said that after the coronation night on April 17, the 2004 Miss Teen-CNMI would fly to Venezuela the following month to compete in the 2004 Miss Antilles International.

He added that winners in the 2004 Miss Teen-CNMI should be physically and mentally prepared to represent the Northern Marianas in the international pageant.

Ms. Teen-CNMI—the local pageant search that capitalizes on the islands' attractive and spirited school-aged girls—was revived in 2002 after five years of dormancy.

Previous winners of the contest are Anita Jones Ayuyu, Cecilia Masga, Cecilia Taitano, Marian V. Pangelinan, and Gina Torres Duenas.



Chanel Cabrera, 15
Marianas High School

At 15, Chanel stands 5'9 and a firm believer that if the CNMI is safe, tourists would continue to come in. She believes that the CNMI should be kept beautiful and safe and once tourists are here, they can be introduced to the local culture and traditions. She believes that the CNMI should be exposed to the world.



Divana Dela Cruz, 16
Marianas High School

If she is crowned Miss Teen CNMI 2004, Divana hopes to organize a group that would help prevent suicide among the youth. Divana said flyers would be passed around to raise awareness in the community.



Jerbeth De Leon, 16
Marianas High School

Jerbeth is focusing on peer pressure as a problem she believes should be resolved to prevent teens from being involved in alcohol, tobacco, and drug abuse. She said peer pressure comes in different forms and shapes and continues to haunt the younger generation.

Jocelyn Castro, 17
Kagman High School

Jocelyn joined the contest to build her self-esteem and self-confidence but if she wins, she hopes to work with students with disabilities and help families caring for people with disabilities. Jocelyn said it is hard for parents who have children with disabilities but with proper help, people with disabilities and their families would be more up to meeting these challenges head on.



Christal Leon
Guerrero, 15
Kagman High School

Christal said that if she wins, she would do her best to join and establish organizations that would prevent domestic violence in the Commonwealth. Christal will also try her best to promote the local culture.



cars

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Leave no reform behind

This week Education Secretary Roderick Paige announced an important set of changes to the No Child Left Behind Act. These changes will eliminate one of the absurdities of the law and prevent schools with large numbers of non-English-speaking children from being automatically labeled "failing." In December Paige also announced new rules for testing severely disabled students, whose failure to make the same progress as others will no longer count against schools either. The question now is why the administration waited so long to make these changes—and whether they have come too late to halt the growing opposition to this law.

Opposition has been fierce locally. In Virginia, the House of Delegates is considering opting out of the program; some legislators have talked of renouncing the \$323 million in federal funding that goes with it. Republican state legislators in Utah, along with Democrats in Vermont, are among others weighing the same choice. Many critics have attacked the illogical elements of the law—the provisions requiring non-English speakers and the disabled to meet the same standards as others—that Paige has belatedly begun to address. Others, Democratic presidential candidates among them, have complained that federal funding has been too skimpy.

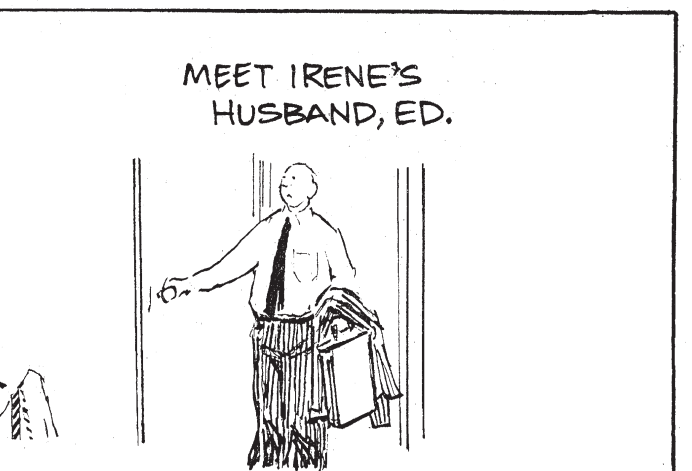
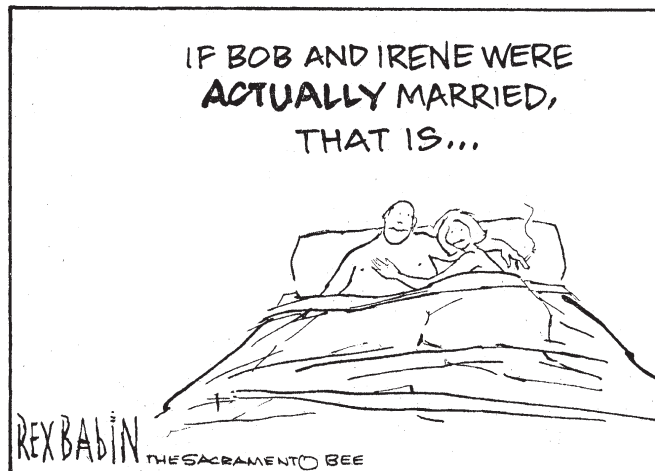
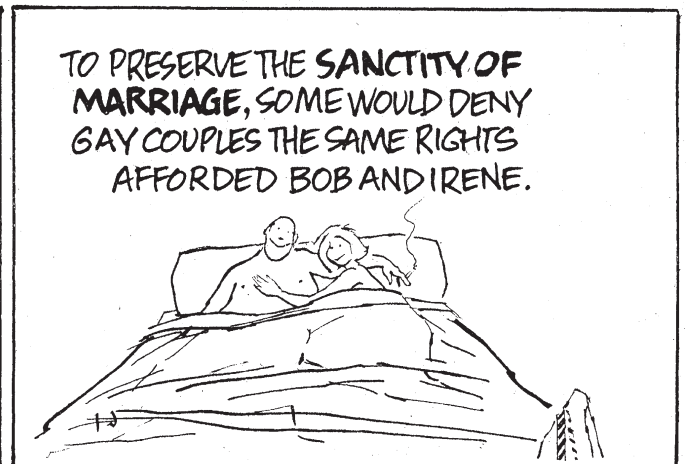
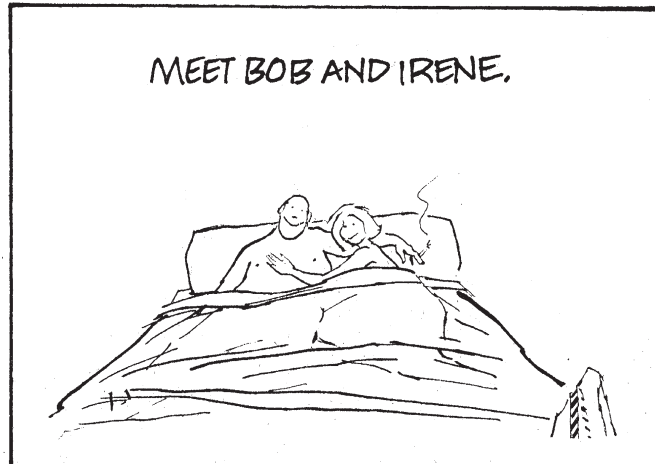
It's true that schools that have become bogged down in the technicalities of testing various subgroups deserve sympathy, and it is indeed senseless when high percentages of schools are labeled "failures." Nevertheless, it is important to note that the law contains important measures of flexibility. The federal government has not mandated what it is that states are meant to test: That is left up to state legislators. Nor does the federal government tell states what or how to teach.

What the law does do—and this, at bottom, explains why many dislike it—is force states to look at all their students, not just statewide averages, and pay them equal attention. Virginia's state standards rules, for example, demand that 70 percent of students in a school reach proficiency for the school to be considered successful. In a few cases, however, "successful" schools may have 70 percent overall proficiency even though only a small percentage of low-income or minority students have achieved the same standards. The feds, rightly, say that's not acceptable. But raising standards for previously neglected groups won't be cheap or easy. No wonder the idea is unpopular in Virginia.

It is also true that some states may only now be reckoning with the fact that the schools they thought were good are not. According to some, more than half the nation's children are not reading at grade level, which should give many "successful" school districts pause.

The philosophy of the law remains sound—which all the more suggests that the administration should make common-sense adjustments as needed. In fact, if this week's changes had been made faster, some of the opposition might have faded by now. But while promoting flexibility and making exceptions to the rules in the future, the federal government should be careful not to dilute the law's basic principle, which is that all children should have a chance to succeed in the U.S. educational system.

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Open up the WTO

By JAMES BACCHUS
Special to The Washington Post

For the past eight years, I have spent much of my time in Geneva as one of the seven members (and the only American) on the Appellate Body of the World Trade Organization. I have assisted the members of the WTO in their efforts to uphold the rule of law in world trade. I have been one of the "faceless foreign judges" of the WTO.

But now I am a former member of the Appellate Body, eager to reclaim my voice as a private citizen and to rejoin the debate as an advocate for trade—specifically for securing the mutual benefits of trade by sustaining and strengthening the system established by the members of the WTO. One thing I hope to do is help shine more light on WTO dispute settlement, an indispensable element of the system.

To begin: We must open the doors of the WTO.

We need to let in the light of public scrutiny—let the 6 billion people in the world who are served by the WTO see the organization as it really is. If we don't, it's unlikely that members of the WTO will ever secure the public support needed to maximize the many gains to be made from trade through a rule-based world trading system.

Only when this happens will we be able to achieve all our goals of more open trade. We must open the proceedings of the panels and the oral hearings of the Appellate Body, both to press coverage and to overall public observation. Further, we need to do the same for meetings of the General Council, the Dispute Settlement Body and all of the other major councils of the WTO.

I am not proposing that the deliberations of the panels or the Appellate Body be open; no judicial system in the world does that. Nor am I proposing that the trade negotiations conducted separately from general meetings of the various WTO councils be open. No one who has ever negotiated trade agreements would favor that.

And I am certainly not proposing that nongovernmental organizations and other private interests be made parties to dispute-settlement proceedings or trade negotiations—or that they should have any form of official "standing" in the WTO. The WTO must remain an intergovernmental organization exclusively of countries and other customs territories. I fully understand the reservations about "transparency" on the part of developing countries fearful that if the doors are opened, they will be elbowed aside by an army of well-funded private interests from the developed world.

But I believe these concerns can be addressed if the right doors are opened in the right way. Moreover, I think such concerns are significantly outweighed by the need to reassure the world that the

WTO is member-driven and that it is working in ways that fulfill the objectives and purposes of the WTO treaty.

The WTO calls its proceedings confidential. The rest of the world calls them secret. There is no reason for WTO proceedings to remain secret, and there is every reason for them to be open to public scrutiny. It's only because the doors are closed that critics of the WTO can claim any credibility in referring to the organization as a star chamber or kangaroo court. It's only because the doors are closed that there are suspicions that the WTO decision-making process may not be consistent with the WTO treaty.

If the doors were opened for dispute-settlement proceedings, the world would see that those who have been entrusted with responsibility for helping resolve trade disputes are fulfilling that responsibility correctly and conscientiously. WTO jurists are independent, impartial, fair, objective and exhaustive in examining every nuance of issues raised. It's only because the doors are closed that anyone is able to suggest otherwise.

Perhaps the biggest beneficiaries of opening up would be the WTO nations themselves. The last time I looked, most members of the organization had never even seen a hearing of the Appellate Body. This is because only parties—including third parties—to a dispute are allowed to attend and participate in an oral hearing in a WTO appeal. Opening the doors would allow many of the members to see firsthand what happens in dispute settlement.

Keeping the doors closed is self-defeating for the WTO. It feeds the unfounded paranoia about the organization that prevails among the anti-globalists, the hard-core protectionists and all the others who oppose what the members of the WTO are trying to accomplish. Those who oppose the WTO can portray it in the distorted way they do only because, by keeping the doors closed, the organization's members make it possible, and seemingly credible, for them to do so.

To be sure, on the first day an open-door policy took effect, the panels and the Appellate Body would undoubtedly be greeted by one or two well-wishers wearing turtle costumes or something of the kind. But the novelty would soon pass. As one who has sat through endless hours of discussion about the meaning of single footnotes among the more than 30,000 pages of typical WTO "covered agreements," I'm sure that after a few days only the turtles with the hardest shells would remain.

The author is a former chairman of the World Trade Organization's Appellate Body. He was a Democratic representative from Florida from 1991 to 1995. This article is adapted from a recent speech to the National Foreign Trade Council.

Sensually yours

Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love and beauty, came calling upon our Social Studies class while we were cruising around the Aegean Sea following the exploits of the Minoans and the Myceneans. We detoured through Sparta and Athens, and savored the cavorting of Homer's gods and humans in the Iliad and the Odyssey.

Mischievous Aphrodite pried Helen to Paris of Priam's affections leading the duo to elope to Troy. The Iliad chronicles the ramifications of this act. Centuries later, Shakespeare would croon about Helen: "Is this the face that launched a thousand ships?" Hollywood retells the story but would focus on the "rescue" of Helen, rather than on the Achaeans journey to the plain of Ilium to avenge a violated Mediterranean sense of injustice.

But the Social Studies class' interest is primarily on geography, economics, history and civics, so we relegated drama to Language Arts. Yet the human factor would not go away. Watching a video of contemporary Greece, a brief shot of the back of a lady lying face down on the beach with her top untied—perhaps to suggest a Club Med ambience—caught the young boys' attention.

From the back was heard a cry: "Freeze that frame!" When a statue of Apollo au naturel was shown, the girls responded with their titillated giggles. Already, our young have taken what is natural to be lascivious and lewd. It did not take long before the class remembered the recent brouhaha on Janet Jackson's one-second bra-ho-hum. On cable TV, the incident was parodied by the Australian and Taiwan TV broadcasts, with Taiwan taking a clinical and analytical approach on every millimeter of Janet's mons. The Aussies saved their wit against the Americans' continuing reliance on Queen Victoria's norms.

Then we were reminded of a recent public letter from one of our local Divines, deploring the state of the island's pictorial undress that assaults the eye even as one is just deplaning at our local international airport.

As a young boy, growing up in the foothills of Northern Philippines, the uplanders brought their goods to the Saturday lowland markets with the ladies attired sans blouses, only palm leave skirts. This really did not make an impression on my mind until I turned 21 in San Francisco. My friends treated me out to a night in the then new and controversial topless bars in the North Beach area. We paid to ogle at the fatty protrusions on the female upper torso as an object of commerce, at \$5 a peek if you please, when as a young boy, the sight of the same was simply a part of the natural landscape.

A Navy officer in Guam in the early 80's revealed that his favorite duty is the periodic trip to the outer Micronesian Islands where the

population was still pristine ala romanticized perspectives of Somerset Maugham and Gauguin.

He had albums of photos of young nubile dancers oblivious of the camera and, presumably, of the perspectives that the visiting sailors brought to their sartorial state. I do remember walking into a pool hall in Kolonia during the same period where the ladies where wearing nothing but bras. They acted naturally. The discomfort was mine. I've grown into the prurient inclinations of the West, away from my northern RP upbringing.

So it is, it seems, for the rest of Micronesia. Gauging from the Freycinet collection, islanders obviously did not have much reason to hide their well-endowed physique shortly after contact with the Europeans. My elementary class does BodyWorks (PhysEd) once and week, and in an initial brainstorm, the class was asked to write down parts of their bodies they wanted to know more about. One of the girls wrote rather emphatically that her family can answer all her questions, thank you, and that she and her mother discuss "these things" on occasion. I thought the young girl was just being properly modest.

Not too long afterwards, she was bothered by one of the young boys, and to my surprise, she immediately gave him the middle finger. No, the young lady was not shy, and hardly modest!

In 400 years, like the rest of the former colonies of the West, we have become disembodied. We nurture the so-called spirit by decrying the pitfalls of the flesh. To feed on the cravings of the flesh is to habituate Satan's domain.

Happily, a shifting of paradigm is occurring. With the advent of Brain/Mind research, Philosophy in THE FLESH, the embodied mind and its challenge to Western thought, is a college textbook that has since joined the mainstream canon. We are rediscovering the awe and the mystery that the human body is, once more. Former Roman Catholic priest of the Dominican Order Matthew Fox's Original Blessing, celebrating the earthiness of creation spirituality, no longer surprises, let alone offends those seriously tending their spirit journeys by nurturing the garden of the flesh. The sassy cast of HBO's Sex and the City had taken their leave because the show no longer is at the cutting edge of adult entertainment.

In Saipan, we have the quarterly bust on the Garapan trade of the flesh, just so, I am told, the ladies of the night make sure to update their health certificates. It also allows us to air out our uptight self-righteous adumbration. Besides, being a premier R & R destination, it is good business to be clean. But as a local wag is oft to comment, genital stimulation for pay is more widely practiced in the suburban bedrooms than in the red light district.

Ouch, is a wallet cry that has been known to wreck marriages.

By JAIME R. VERGARA

Vergara is a Social Studies 6th grade teacher at San Vicente Elementary School and writes a regular column for the Saipan Tribune.



Lest we stray into the domain of personal morals, this reflection is about sensuality and how it is that we have culturally stymied the natural wildness of our humanness. We learned to close our nose to the decay in the wetlands. Our children say "Yuk" to amargozo, or bitter melon. Old timers know that the intake of the same favorably assists in protecting persons from diabetes and leukemia. Our model for environmental hygiene is Army hospital antiseptic. Mainstream American cuisine is famous for its blandness. Our tactile orientation is air-conditioned in an island where the breeze is free, fresh and frequent, and the salty air is balm to the dormant encrusted soul.

It is time to recover our island's natural wildness—the terrain and the people. Let us open widely the doors to our senses—our taste buds and our touch, our sightings and our hearings, the wonder of our aromatic dwellings.

Why not market the islands as a haven for sensual encounters? The upcoming Taste of the Marianas could really be a veritable feast of the various ethnic offerings on island if we off-center it from the limited culinary interests of our hotel chefs, and open it to the offerings of the hoi polloi. The Flame Tree Festival could really be a wild display of vibrant colors if we liberate it from the so-called "artists" among us, and encourage native and natural renderings from the general populace. Move the "stage" performance of the elite to the participating plebians and we might just have an explosion of wild colors.

The Russian ballet is helpful in reinstilling among our young the aesthetics of the movements of the human body. Island dance troupes heralding the ocean beats and movements of Polynesia and Micronesia is a head start. So are the singsong chants. But we have grown to be a multicultural diverse offering.

Beyond being a Gateway to the US of A, let us be a gateway to the wonderful world of planet Earth.

A brain job waits to be done, and debilitating mental structures awaits intentional deconstruction. Now you know why I am in Social Studies!

The man who mistook his analysis for a cure

By TODD DUFRESNE
Special to the Los Angeles Times

What an utter disappointment the 1990s were for the fans of Freud. Time magazine asked aloud, and on its cover no less, "Is Freud Dead?" And the former analytic stronghold, the New York Review of Books, published lengthy feature articles debunking Freud's reputation as a man and as a thinker.

By the end of the decade, even The New Yorker was in on the action. Taken as a whole, these sensations of the 1990s, part of the so-called "Freud wars," capture the gist of a cause well lost.

The year 2000—the centenary of "The Interpretation of Dreams"—should have been a triumph for Freudians. Instead, amid the celebrations was a funereal whiff of defeat: The psychoanalytic century was over before the 21st century had begun. Everyone knew the answer to Time's rhetorical question. Psychoanalysis was indeed dead.

Well, almost everyone knew. You can always count on intellectuals to keep a candle burning for whatever idea they've invested long years, enormous sums of money and, perhaps above all, limitless ego promoting.

Obviously, it's not easy to walk away from a venture of this magnitude—one that helped pave the way for tenure and the prestige of authorship. Over the years, there were so many books, so many reviews, so many lectures, all with so little perspective on Freud's limitations, and partisans were just not ready to give it all up. So the Freud industry soldiered on.

Freud is truly in a class of his own. Arguably no other notable figure in history was so fantastically wrong about nearly every important thing he had to say. But, luckily for him, academics have been—and still

are—infinately creative in their efforts to whitewash his errors, even as lay readers grow increasingly dumbfounded by the entire mess.

So what can we see today that we didn't see during the last century? We now know that Freud compulsively fudged the historical record. This tendency is evident in Freud's backsliding statements on his advocacy of cocaine, his opportunism concerning the case of Anna O., his flip-flops on the seduction theory, and in almost every instance where he mentions a patient.

Just ask the "Wolf Man," Sergius Pankejeff, whom Freud supposedly cured but who was, in truth, consigned to psychoanalysis for an additional 60 years. Not surprising, Pankejeff considered Freud's effect on his life a "catastrophe."

We also know that Freud never seriously dealt with the problem of "suggestion," which totally compromised his clinical findings and, by extension, his theories. Already, by the 1890s, few believed in Freud's convenient claim that suggestion—the undue influence of the psychoanalyst over the patient—was possible only in the biologically predisposed and was thus of no consequence to his findings. Amazingly, these critical insights were buried under Freud's rhetoric of denial and by his growing fame. Now we've come full circle. Today we know better than to trust in memories, or in free associations, that supposedly issue from the "therapeutic alliance" between analyst and patient.

Then there is the theory of the unconscious, which has also seen better days. We all agree that Freud did not "discover" the unconscious, and are sophisticated enough to see that it has a history that long predates him: as the devil that possessed Christians; as the mesmerism and hypnosis that invoked the split, double and multiple personalities of the 18th and 19th centuries; and as the theme of "doubling" that informed much Victorian literature and, today, still informs the dumbest plot lines in Hollywood and in psychotherapy.

Now connect the dots. In each iteration of the unconscious, some anointed medium—priest, quack or analyst—claims special access to the darkest, scariest reaches of our minds. For a certain price, he or she can cure you of this demon.

Of course, as with exorcism, the psychoanalytic "cure" hinges upon belief in mysterious entities such as the unconscious. For with belief we are back in the realm of suggestion and, at its best, the placebo effect. True, that's not nothing. But the cult-like exigencies of psychoanalysis dictate that normal human suggestibility be exploited for the cause of conversion. As Karl Kraus put it many years ago, psychoanalysis itself became the poison it purports to cure. Another way to put it is that it is psychoanalysis itself that has infected the Western soul with penis envy, Oedipal conflicts, death drives and so on. For these ideas are not given to, and cannot be found in, the world. They must be created. Consequently, the death of psychoanalysis is itself the only cathartic event psychoanalysis was ever designed to deliver.

In the beginning, psychoanalysis was laughable, and then it was ponderable. Then, unfortunately, it was tragic—for patients and for Western culture in general. Now psychoanalysis is just laughable again. This is a good thing. At last we are in a position to do justice to Freud.

To this end I propose the following: Next year let's honor the centenary of Freud's famously unfunny 1905 book, "Jokes and Their Relation to the Unconscious." For although in 2000 some people still weren't ready to celebrate the death of Freud, in 2005 we can all give this book and its screwball theories the send up they so richly deserve.

Woody, give me a call.

Dufresne is a Northern Ontario Medical School professor and author of "Killing Freud: 20th Century Culture & the Death of Psychoanalysis."

Hawaii's Lingle to push for more Compact impact aid

HONOLULU, Hawaii (AP)—While Hawaii didn't get as much money as it wanted from the federal government to provide services for Micronesian and Marshallese immigrants, that won't deter the state from continuing to push for more aid, Gov. Linda Lingle says.

"In politics, we deal with it all the time—you don't get everything you want all the time," Lingle said. "But you need to be going in the right direction, and the agreement certainly was going in the right direction from my point of view."

Lingle was speaking of the federal government's allocation of \$30 million to be divided among Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands to provide social services for Micronesian and Marshallese immigrants who arrive on their shores under the Compacts of Free Association.

The compacts—which allow Micronesians and Marshallese to freely

come to the United States and its territories—were first negotiated in 1986 and renewed last month by the Bush administration. They recognize the island nations' independence and set forth a financial and tactical relationship between their governments and the U.S. government.

Upon renewal, the compacts were amended to include \$30 million for Hawaii and the other territories, which have long lobbied the U.S. government to help foot the bill for providing education, health and other services for immigrants.

Guam received the highest share of the funds, \$14.2 million, based on the number of immigrants who live there. Hawaii received \$10.5 million.

The distribution formula caused a rift between the U.S. Department of the Interior, which oversees Insular Affairs, and Hawaii's congressional delegation, which led to the cancellation of a planned ceremony last week in

Honolulu to announce the grants.

Lingle agreed that \$10.5 million won't cover the costs of providing for immigrants, but it still is more than Hawaii has received in the past.

"I don't think anybody felt they got enough," Lingle said at a news conference last week, flanked by Northern Marianas Gov. Juan Babauta and American Samoa Gov. Togiola Tulafono.

"As the congressional delegation stated, they will be working hard to get additional funding in the future," she said. "But it was more than we were getting previously by a substantial amount, so it's progress in the right direction."

In Hawaii, officials say the state spent about \$32 million in 2002 providing services for a population of about 7,000 Marshallese, and a slightly smaller number of Micronesians.

The state received about \$3 million for fiscal year 2003 in so-called compact-impact aid.

CDA

From Page 1

In a meeting Saturday, the CDA board instructed CDA executive director Mary Lou Ada to contact NMC on the issue.

Going into an interim financing for NMC, according to Igisomar, is not easy as it put assets at risk.

"The question there is, 'Whose assets are going to be in the hook? Is it the CNMI's or CDA's?' If it's CNMI, that needs legislative approval. And that takes time. If it's CDA, that would mean freezing up assets and that involves great risks. It's definitely no simple matter," he said.

He said it would help if NMC could decide early on as to its funding prospects with MPLT and NMIRF.

The involvement of MPLT and NMIRF in the financing equation may, however, be put in question. "There's a question of 'Can they actually assist?' Hopefully, they can make a quick decision whether they could do it. They

[MPLT, NMIRF, NMC] need to agree where they stand," said Igisomar.

On a personal level, he said he finds the Pacific Gateway "a good project," but he indicated that much more needs to be done for the project to take off. "It's a good project. Beautiful. The idea is good but as to the numbers...that's the question."

Igisomar said CDA will write to Gov. Juan N. Babauta informing him about the CDA's intent to work with NMC on the issue.

Babauta earlier asked the CDA board to help NMC secure interim financing to ensure that the Pacific Gateway gets started.

"CDA may be able to play a role by providing a guarantee of interim financing, while the Board of Regents negotiates with NMIRF and MPLT and while the board waits for a response to the [loan] application with USDA," said the governor in a Jan. 20, letter.

He said the interim financing would ensure that the project's opening—January 2005—would no longer be delayed.

other publications reporting dolphins feeding on seagrass. Trianni concludes that the dolphin was starving, could not pursue fish and thus chose to feed on seagrass," it added.

Co-authored by Kurt Kessler, Trianni's article also told of the frequent stranding of spinner dolphins in the Saipan lagoon during low tide, the DLNR said. The article reportedly explained three recent stranding of dolphins, which could have died had DFW staff not been able to herd the creatures to open sea.

The DLNR commended Trianni for his research work for the DFW, disclosing that the marine biologist has authored five articles published in

scientific journals in the past 18 months.

The agency disclosed that Trianni authored an article on reef fish abundance in CNMI's marine protected areas, which was published in Australia as part of the proceedings of the World Congress on Aquatic Protected Areas.

The DLNR explained that the article dealt with methods used to determine the increase in reef fish population, including that on the Managaha Marine Conservation Area.

"The article acknowledges the important contributions to the aquatic protected area reef fish surveys made by the DFW reef fish survey team composed of Jacinto Taman, Tony Flores, Rudy Pangelinan, Chris

Alepuyo, Michael Tenorio, Gus Aguon and Dr. Kate Moots," the DLNR added.

LAND

From Page 1

evaluate the viability of Palau Micronesia Air.

The Palau-based airline has obtained an investment commitment of \$500,000 from the CNMI government.

To prevent any future delays in the release of funds, the board passed a resolution Saturday authorizing other CDA officials to sign off MPLA requests.

Meantime, MPLA commissioner Henry S. Hofschneider said Friday that the CDA's signature had authorized BoG to place the requested amount on MPLA's special account for land compensation.

He said that, of 62 land claimants who received MPLA compensation offers, 43 have accepted the offers, while nine have rejected them.

Those who have accepted the offers will begin to receive their payments this week.

Hofschneider said those who will get their claims need to present their Social Security number or a taxpayer's identification card. Concerned individuals can claim their compensation at the MPLA office, located at the ground floor of Sablan Building in Chalan Kanoa.

"They have to present SSS or Tax ID's when they come," said Hofschneider.

The Attorney General's Office earlier advised land claimants to report their total compensation to the government for tax purposes.

The AGO said recipients need to seek assistance from a tax professional to determine their estimated tax payment.

"It's very important that they

know about it now. So we're reminding them to seek the advice of a tax professional before they start spending their money...to avoid getting into financial trouble later," said Attorney General Pam Brown.

The AGO said that under the U.S. and CNMI laws, recipients are required to report such payments on their income tax returns or gross revenue tax return.

Tax payment differs depending whether the compensation is for land or for accumulated interest on the payments for the land or whether the recipient is a business or an individual.

The MPLA board earlier approved 75 folders for immediate land compensation after the signing and release of the \$40-million bond.

Of the total amount, only about \$27 million will be used for land compensation since \$11 million has been allotted for a pending prison project. The bond underwriter also deducted \$1.5 million for cost of the bond issuance.

The government is given 30 years to pay off the loan at an annual interest of 6.75 percent.

The first batch of claimants are landowners whose lands were acquired by the CNMI government for rights-of-way. The Land Compensation Act mandates the government to prioritize the payment for lands used for rights-of-way.

The next would be those whose lands were acquired for ponding basins. Lastly, the government will settle with landowners of wetlands and other claims. The MPLA has listed some 120 eligible land claimants in the CNMI.

The payments to landowners are based on the value of the properties at the time of taking by the Commonwealth.

returning to China but had reconsidered because "nothing" awaits them there. Besides, they said they have used up their savings just to come to the CNMI. "How can we go back when we have no money. We've used up our life savings," he said.

Wang said that while they want to study and get a degree in the CNMI—as they had planned—they have zero budget now to pursue it.

He said only two of them had been able to enroll at the Northern Marianas College.

The students earlier said that they incurred huge debts in China—some \$8,000 to \$15,000 each—to enroll at SU. They arrived on Saipan in fall 2003.

the lagoon," Trianni said.

In commending Trianni, the DLNR also disclosed the marine biologist's work on the sea cucumber fishery in Rota, which was published by the South Pacific Commission Beche-de-Mer Bulletin. The department also mentioned Trianni's article evaluating the sea cucumber resource on Saipan, which was published in the proceedings of the 9th International Coral Reef Symposium.

The DLNR said Trianni has also authored an article that focused on collected data in connection with the trochus season on Saipan, which was published in the South Pacific Commission's Trochus Bulletin.

MOST

From Page 1

court case against SU officials.

He said they were forced to vacate their housing in Susupe on Jan. 29 because its power connection had been cut. "We couldn't stay there because they cut the power supply," he said. "Now we're separated. We live far from each other."

The students earlier filed fraud charges against SU founder Park Soon Kyun, who allegedly promised them a state-of-the-art university and a study-and-work program in the CNMI.

Wang said they had thought of

Alepuyo, Michael Tenorio, Gus Aguon and Dr. Kate Moots," the DLNR added.

Trianni said the emphasis of his work on fishery protection and development at the DFW is geared toward sustainable uses of fish resources. He noted the ban on gill nets and fishing with scuba gear, which the DLNR currently implements.

"The ban on the use of gill nets has resulted in many more fishermen being able to catch seasonal fish such as the scad mackerel and juvenile jacks for prolonged periods of time. The marine protected areas, which are no-take zones, enable fish stocks to grow to maturity, reproduce and over time migrate and seed depleted areas of

Saipan Tribune Make it your *DAILY* habit.

February is Parent Leadership Month

Parents and parent groups are set to gather today, Feb. 2, to observe the proclamation of February 2004 as National Parent Leadership Month. Parents Anonymous of the Northern Mariana Islands will be recognizing, honoring and celebrating parents for leadership roles in their homes and the community. Gov. Juan N. Babauta will make the proclamation at 11am at the Office of the Governor.

National Parent Leadership Month was created to educate the public about this vital family strengthening and community building strategy, and to encourage professional, policymakers and other community members to partner with parents in addressing issues that affect children and families.

Parent Leadership occurs when parents gain the knowledge and skills to function in meaningful leadership roles and represent a “parent voice” to help shape the lives of families and the community, as well as shape the direction of programs and policies that impact them.

Parents, grandparents, kinship care providers, foster parents, and anyone in a parenting role who has personal experience in using resources or services to strengthen their families have the potential to

become Parent Leaders. “Parent Leadership is an essential component in all effective family strengthening and child abuse prevention programs,” said Division of Youth Services director Victor Mesta. “Better outcomes for families are achieved when parents have the opportunity to

use their knowledge and expertise through meaningful and active roles in the planning, implementation, oversight and evaluation of programs that affect families and children. Parents find themselves accomplishing things that may have seemed impossible before.” As part of the month’s

activities, parent organizations will be invited to submit the names of outstanding Parent Leaders for public recognition. Parents and professionals in the Northern Marianas and the United States are working together in new ways, participating in local, regional and national planning processes,

collaborating as grant reviewers and program evaluators, and serving together on advisory boards and coalitions. When parents are speaking and acting from the parent’s perspective rather than as staff from an organization or institution, they are Parent Leaders.

Founded in 1999, Parents Anonymous of the Northern Mariana Islands is joining with Parents Anonymous Inc., the nation’s oldest family strengthening

and child abuse prevention organization and founder of National Parent Leadership Month, to honor anyone in a parenting role who has taken steps to provide leadership in their home or community or at the state or national level. For more information about activities related to National Parent Leadership Month, contact the Division of Youth Services’ Parent Education Program at 670-664-2585 or parented@saipan.com.

Fiji reappoints top military commander

SUVA, Fiji (FijiSUN/PIR)—Fiji Army Commander Voreqe Bainimarama will remain at his post following a decision yesterday by President Ratu Josefa Iloilo to extend his term. Accepting the appointment, Bainimarama thanked the President and pledged his personal as well as the RFMF’s loyalty and support to his office and to the Government.

Ratu Josefa said this was a time of nation building for all, demanding that Fiji move forward as one people to achieve prosperity and security. Last night, the commander would not say how long his term is but an official with the Home Affairs Ministry said his term would be for five years.

His reappointment follows months of speculation and pressure on the Government to extend the commander’s term. Home Affairs Minister Joketani Cokanasiga declined to comment on the reappointment yesterday.

Commodore Bainimarama and Mr. Cokanasiga were summoned by President Ratu Josefa Iloilo to Government House yesterday morning. After consultations between Mr. Cokanasiga and the National Security Council, of which the Prime Minister, Laisenia Qarase, is chairman, it was resolved that Commodore Bainimarama’s term be extended.

microl
oh yeah
+red

Business

Nation

One ticket wins \$230M Mega Millions prize

STEPHENS CITY, Va. (AP)—There was one winning ticket for the jackpot of at least \$230 million in the Mega Millions lottery, the biggest single prize in the game’s history.

The lucky ticket, purchased at a Stephens City convenience store, matched all five lotto numbers and the Mega Ball number to win the 11-state jackpot. Lottery officials waited Saturday for the holder or holders of that single ticket to come forward. The numbers drawn Friday night were: 1-13-20-21-30, and the Mega Ball was 24.

Lottery officials were still tallying the final jackpot, driven beyond the \$230 million mark by bigger sales on Friday than expected, said Penelope Kyle, Virginia Lottery director.

The exact amount won’t be known until Monday because the jackpot is based on the bond market, said Virginia Lottery spokesman Ed Scarborough.

The jackpot was the only topic of conversation Saturday morning at the convenience store where the ticket was sold, the Red Apple Country Store in Stephens City, just south of Winchester in the Shenandoah Valley.

“Oh my gosh, you don’t know how excited we are, and we didn’t even win the ticket,” said Vangy Robinson, a clerk at the store and gas station.

Kyle said store owner Harry Stimpson would receive \$25,000.

Store employee P.J. Thomas said he was rooting for a few regular customers. “I always tell them, ‘don’t forget who sold you this ticket.’ We’ll see if they’re true to their word.”

There were 56 second-place winners, matching all five lotto numbers but not the Mega Ball to win \$175,000 each. And 209 people matched four lotto numbers, plus the Mega Ball number, for a payout of \$5,000 each.

“This is the largest jackpot ever won by a single ticket in the game,” said Kyle, referring to Mega Millions and its predecessor, the Big Game, which began in 1996. The previous record in the two games was \$197 million, set April 6, 1999; that winning ticket was sold in Massachusetts.

Kyle said Friday’s jackpot was the second largest single-ticket jackpot winner sold in any lottery in the United States. The biggest was the Powerball jackpot of \$314.9 million, won on Christmas Day 2002 by Jack Whitaker, of Scott Depot, W. Va.

Friday’s record jackpot led to higher ticket sales, despite the bleak odds of winning—one in 135,145,920, according to the Mega Millions Web site.

Kerry blasts Bush over attacks on record

By NEDRA PICKLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ATLANTA (AP)—Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry accused President Bush on Saturday of using surrogates to attack his military service in Vietnam and his subsequent activism against that war.

In a letter to Bush, Kerry wrote: “As you well know, Vietnam was a very difficult and painful period in our nation’s history, and the struggle for our veterans continues. So, it has been hard to believe that you would choose to reopen these wounds for your personal political gain. But, that is what you have chosen to do.”

Kerry was reacting to criticism earlier in the day from a leading Georgia Republican who, speaking for Bush’s re-election campaign, predicted trouble for Kerry in the state’s primary.

Sen. Saxby Chambliss said during a conference call arranged by the Bush campaign that Kerry has a “32-year history of voting to cut defense programs and cut defense systems.”

When Kerry responded later, at his side was Max Cleland, a triple-amputee Vietnam veteran who lost his Senate seat to Chambliss in 2002 after being portrayed as soft on homeland security.

He said the president “decided once again to take the low road of American politics.”

“Saxby Chambliss, on the part of the president and his henchmen, decided today to question my commitment to the defense of our nation,” Kerry said in Georgia, one of 10 states choosing electoral delegates on March 2.

Kerry said Bush used the same strategy to beat John McCain in the 2000 race for the Republican presidential nomination, and during the Chambliss-Cleland race.

In his letter to Bush, Kerry called Chambliss’ run against Cleland “one of the most despicable campaigns ever conducted.”

During the news conference, Kerry said he voted for the largest defense and intelligence budgets in American history,



Kerry

Poll: Jobs a top campaign issue

American jobs and foreign competition will be important issues in the 2004 elections, say nine in 10 in a poll released Saturday that highlighted the increasing importance of jobs to the campaign.

Two-thirds of those polled for Newsweek said those issues would be “very important.” More than half in the poll, 55 percent, disapproved of how President Bush is handling the issues of jobs and foreign

competition, while 32 percent approved. Bush had a slight lead over Democratic front-runner John Kerry on how well each would handle those issues.

When asked which presidential candidate would do the best in handling the issues of jobs and foreign competition, 35 percent said Bush and 31 percent Kerry. One in five, 18 percent, said John Edwards, the Democratic candidate who has made foreign trade and its drain

of U.S. jobs centerpieces of his campaign.

About four of five in the poll said this country is losing jobs to foreign countries because workers in those countries are willing to work for less pay and said American business executives want profits and don’t care where the profits come from.

Both Kerry and Edwards were running about even with Bush in head-to-head matchups in this poll.

although sometimes he “voted for common sense to make changes.”

Bush, he said, was ignoring issues like jobs and health care to “engage in the politics of fear.”

Kerry has gotten the endorsement of John Lewis, a civil rights leader and Georgia’s longest-serving congressman. But Sen. Zell Miller, D-Ga., is backing Bush.

Kerry also defended his military record during an interview taped Saturday for broadcast Sunday morning on ABC’s “This Week.”

virtue
+cyan

gardenia
+red

SF mayor happy with marriage decision

By LISA LEFF
AP WRITER

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—He’s been called a renegade and a rogue, a thorn in the side of the Democratic Party’s presidential ambitions. Enemies are calling for his political head and old allies are keeping a noticeable distance.

Yet what really matters to Mayor Gavin Newsom is what they’re saying in the neighborhoods of San Francisco—that his decision to buck California law and grant marriage licenses to gay and lesbian couples makes him a hero.

“At the end of the day I sleep well, and in life there is nothing I think more important than that, whether you agree with me or not,” Newsom said Saturday during an interview at City Hall, where nearly 3,200 same-sex couples have taken vows in the

last 10 days. “What matters is doing the right thing. What matters is being true to yourself. What matters is standing up on principle.”

The 36-year-old mayor had been in office just five weeks when he effectively threw kerosene on the national debate over same-sex marriage, ordering city officials to allow gay and lesbian couples to wed. Critics have filed two lawsuits seeking to stop the unions, and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has said the state will also try to step in and block the marriages.

And a spokeswoman for Democratic Attorney General Bill Lockyer said Saturday that the state Department of Justice planned to seek a judgment soon declaring San Francisco’s action in violation of state law.

Still, Newsom said he feels “no anxiety” about his move, which he insists was the only

legal one based on his reading of the California Constitution.

“I’ve never felt more certain about something than this,” he said. “It was almost non-debatable.”

But he acknowledged that he’s been surprised by the lack of support he’s gotten from fellow Democrats, including longtime gay rights champions like U.S. Rep. Barney Frank of Massachusetts and mentors such as U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, both San Franciscans.

“A lot of people that I believed would be quite supportive publicly were not. A lot of people I never imagined, never could conceive, on any basis, would ever support the comments, they supported [me],” Newsom said.

Then he parsed the responses he’s received into one more

Schwarzenegger seeks stop to gay weddings

BURLINGAME, Calif. (AP)—Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger waded deeper into the debate over same-sex marriages, directing the state attorney general to take immediate legal steps to stop San Francisco from granting marriage licenses to gay couples.

Schwarzenegger told a cheering crowd at the state GOP convention that “in San Francisco, the courts are dropping the ball.”

“It’s time for the city to stop traveling down this dangerous

path of ignoring the rule of law. That’s my message to San Francisco,” he said Friday night.

Schwarzenegger’s directive to Attorney General Bill Lockyer was prompted in part by a judge’s decision not to impose a temporary restraining order that would have halted San Francisco’s weeklong parade of 3,175 same-sex weddings, said Rob Stutzman, Schwarzenegger’s communications director.

A spokeswoman for Lockyer told the Los Angeles Times that the attorney general’s office planned to

seek a judgment soon declaring the city’s action a violation of state law, but said Schwarzenegger had no authority over the elected Democrat.

Earlier Friday, Judge Ronald Evans Quidachay denied the Campaign for California Families’ request for a temporary restraining order, saying it failed to prove same-sex weddings would cause irreparable harm. In a separate case, another judge declined to order an immediate stop to the marriages Tuesday.

Conjoined twins’ progress heartens doctors

NEW YORK (AP)—A day after their riskiest operation yet, two Filipino brothers joined at the tops of their heads greeted doctors with high-fives and a little dance Saturday.

Surgeons at Montefiore Medical Center said the 22-month-old brothers’ liveliness

following Friday’s surgery was a sign they are still on course for surgery to fully separate them later this year.

“It’s just incredibly moving to see that after this tremendous and delicate operation they’re up and breathing on their own,” said Dr. David Staffenberg

after looking in on Carl and Clarence Aguirre.

The 5 1/2-hour surgery—the boys’ third major operation—was treacherous and included such challenges as having to separate bone from blood vessels and trying not to damage delicate veins.

Staffenberg, Montefiore’s



22-month-old brothers Clarence, left, and Carl Aguirre, conjoined twins, are shown before surgery at The Children’s Hospital at Montefiore in New York, Friday, Feb. 20, 2004.

chief of pediatric neurosurgery, said Carl performed a “wiggle dance” and Clarence offered his “usual shtick,” which Dr. James Goodrich, the lead neurosurgeon, said included a high-five.

Doctors said it would be 72 hours before the main threat of bleeding and seizures passed.

Still, the doctors seemed

relieved to have completed the tricky operation, during which one major shared vein and some smaller ones were divided. Had the major vein been punctured, the boys could have bled to death in minutes, Goodrich said.

Goodrich, holding a clear plastic model of the boys’ heads showing the tangle of shared

blood vessels, said most of the veins went to Clarence, who had a better circulation system to start with.

The hope is that Carl’s other veins will take up the chore of draining blood from the brain, as they did after the first two operations in October and November.

pss004

ACROSS THE NATION

NJ set to fund stem cell research

TRENTON (AP)—New Jersey is poised to become the first state in the nation to finance stem cell research.

Gov. James E. McGreevey will announce in his budget address Tuesday that the state will provide \$6.5 million for a stem cell research institute, The New York Times reported in Saturday’s editions.

Rutgers University and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey will run the institute, which will be based in New Brunswick.

McGreevey wants to spend \$50 million over the next five years for research on human embryonic stem cells.

Wise Young, chairman of cell biology and neuroscience at Rutgers, said the hope is to

recruit about a dozen of “the best stem cell scientists in the world.”

Supply boat sinks after Mississippi crash

VENICE, La. (AP)—An offshore supply vessel with a crew of five sank near the mouth of the Mississippi River after colliding with a container ship early Saturday, the Coast Guard said.

A Coast Guard rescue boat was at the scene and searching for the crew of the Lee III, Coast Guard Petty Officer Jonathan McCool said.

He said the rescue crew saw the Lee III sink, but had not found anyone several hours after the accident.

If the crew members were not wearing their life jackets, they probably did not have time to get them, McCool said.

The 178-foot Lee III and the 534-foot Zim Mexico III collided in the river’s Southwest Pass, he said.

The container ship’s crew reported damage near the bow, but no injuries.

Asia

Pakistani admits ties to nuclear suspect

By PAUL HAVEN
AP WRITER

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—A Pakistani man named in U.S. court documents as part of a nuclear proliferation scheme acknowledged he had business dealings with a main suspect in the case, but said in an interview Friday with The Associated Press that he did nothing wrong.

The man, Humayun Khan, was named in a U.S. federal court case against Asher Karni, an Israeli who was arrested in Denver on New Year's Day. U.S. authorities accuse Karni of using front companies and falsified documents to buy nuclear bomb triggers in the United States for shipment to Pakistan.

Khan acknowledged that his company was a supplier of high-tech devices for the Pakistani military, but said he imported

military products only for use in armed forces repair shops. He said he also supplied civilian companies and Pakistan's Education Ministry.

Khan said it was unthinkable that he would have openly used the name of his family company, Pakland PME Corp., if he were involved in an illicit arms deal.

"There is a saying we have that robbers and thieves wear masks," Khan told AP in an interview at his office in a dilapidated building in the Pakistani capital. "Would I openly go and ask this man for something that I wanted to put in a nuclear system and use my own name? It is absurd."

The father of Pakistan's nuclear program, Abdul Qadeer Khan, acknowledged this month that he headed a clandestine group that supplied Pakistani nuclear technology to Iran, Libya

and North Korea. Washington has accepted a decision by President Pervez Musharraf to pardon the scientist, but it is pressing Islamabad to clamp down on the weapons network.

Humayun Khan showed an AP reporter documents that appeared to indicate he paid Karni's South Africa-based company, Top-Cape Technology, \$4,580 in July 2002 for a specialized power supply box, but he said the device was for civilian use.

Khan said another deal to buy a magnetometer from Karni for use in an airport project in July 2003 fell through when he realized Karni had a dubious reputation and was an Israeli.

Pakistan and Israel have no diplomatic ties, and Pakistanis are banned from doing business with Israeli businesses. Khan said Karni had told him that he was a Palestinian.

Nuclear middleman free to leave Malaysia

JOHOR BAHRU, Malaysia (AP)—A confessed black marketeer connected to deals to help Libyan and Iranian nuclear weapons programs has committed no crime in Malaysia and is free to leave, the country's police chief said Saturday.



Tahir

Malaysian police were "more than willing" to assist international investigations into Bukhary Syed Abu Tahir, but had no plans to detain him, Inspector General of Police Mohamed Bakri Omar told The Associated Press.

Mohamed Bakri's com-

ments came a day after he released a report summing up a three-month investigation into Tahir's role in the sale of centrifuge parts from Malaysia to Libya. The report also revealed unprecedented details of the global trade in nuclear secrets to rogue states.

The report cleared a Malaysian company, Scomi Precision Engineering, of being knowingly involved in proliferation, but urged the International Atomic Energy Agency to investigate several Europeans Tahir named as middlemen in the trafficking

network created by the father of Pakistan's nuclear program, Abdul Qadeer Khan.

Khan confessed this month to leaking the technology to Iran, Libya and North Korea.

Asked by AP Saturday if U.S. or international authorities could question Tahir, Mohamed Bakri said: "If the International Atomic Energy Agency would like to conduct an investigation, we are more than willing to assist."

But Tahir is not in custody, Mohamed Bakri said, because the investigation had not found any breach of Malaysian laws or the country's obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

China lifts quarantine on 1st bird flu outbreak site

BEIJING (AP)—China on Sunday lifted its quarantine of a village where the nation's first confirmed case of bird flu was reported, allowing the 24 residents to step out for the first time in 20 days, state media reported.

The eight households on the outskirts of Dingdang, a town in south China's Guangxi region, were quarantined after ducks there died of bird flu, state television said.

Since that first case was confirmed, bird flu has appeared in poultry in 16 of China's 31 regions, prompting authorities to slaughter sick fowl and monitor farmers for flu symptoms.

China has reported no cases

of bird flu jumping to humans. The World Health Organization has expressed concern that China might have human cases the government doesn't know about, given the vast territory affected by the disease.

Even after quarantine measures are lifted, affected farms must still wait six months before raising poultry again, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

It said local officials should remain vigilant against bird flu, since the virus can live in bird droppings for as long as three months.

Bird flu has devastated poultry flocks in Asia, and at least 22 people have died from the disease.

Hong Kong leader urges patriotism, reform

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong's leader on Friday urged his people to stay patriotic when pushing for political reforms, echoing a line from Beijing that has stirred major controversy in this Chinese territory.

Many in Hong Kong are demanding a quick transition to democracy. Hong Kong people currently have no say in electing their leader, though they choose some lawmakers. Beijing has made it clear that Hong Kong cannot change election rules on its own.

Beijing officials recently said the former British colony should be governed by local people—with "patriots as the main body."

Pro-democracy activists say Beijing is changing the political rules in Hong Kong by insisting that it be run by "patriots"—a term understood by many here to mean people who go along with China's central government.

Hong Kong's Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa on Friday

picked up the term again in a briefing with reporters.

"I hope everyone can view the matter in a farsighted manner, standing firmly from a point of view patriotic to both China and Hong Kong, and seriously considering the matter calmly and rationally," Tung said.

"By patriotic we mean people who respect our nationality, who wholeheartedly support 'one country, two systems,' and who won't do anything to damage the interests of China and Hong Kong," he said.

"One country, two systems" refers to the political arrangement under which Britain returned former colony Hong Kong to China in 1997—preserving the territory's capitalist economy and civil liberties while recognizing Chinese sovereignty.

Hong Kong's mini-constitution, the Basic Law, sets democracy as an eventual goal but sets no timetable.

boh



TWINS TIMES TWO
Twin sisters Andrea Marie, 2nd left, and Rizza Allysea Andal, 2nd right, 8-years old carry their little twin sisters, Ilianna Alessandra, left, and Illiana Alessea, right, 1-year old during the Festival of Twins Saturday, Feb. 21, 2004 in Manila. More than 300 twins and multiple births have registered and joined the first Festival of Twins in the country.

US practices evacuation of S. Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—It’s a scenario Monica Tucker hates to consider, yet the Army wife diligently prepares for it: North Korean artillery raining down, communist soldiers streaming south and panicked civilians fleeing Seoul as war erupts on the divided Korean Peninsula.

Tucker’s fears were allayed,

if only slightly, this week as the U.S. military launched a three-day exercise to practice evacuating thousands of foreign civilians in South Korea in the event of attack.

But this year’s biannual drill, which began Thursday, comes amid heightened tensions over North Korea’s efforts to build an

atomic bomb. The event quickly drew sharp criticism from the North as a provocation ahead of six-nation talks next week on efforts to persuade it to scrap its nuclear weapons program.

“Going through the exercises makes me less worried,” said Tucker, a native of Cincinnati who registered her two children

at a makeshift processing center in Seoul. “The most difficult part? Making sure everybody gets out OK.”

U.S. military officials say the regular exercise is not a response to the nuclear dispute. Tension, as well as armed clashes, have ebbed and spiked on the peninsula ever since the 1950-53 Korean War. An evacuation could also be called during civil unrest or natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods and typhoons.

But North Korea lashed out at the drill on Friday, saying it is evidence that a “new war by the U.S. is drawing near on the Korean peninsula.” The commentary, carried by the North’s official KCNA news agency, said the training sends the wrong message ahead of the talks.

The North also warned that any U.S. attempt to “survive” a war by evacuating civilians would fail.

“In case the United States ignites a war in this land carried away by war fever, the aggressors can never escape from the range of our formidable strikes, wherever they may be,” KCNA said.

The drills underscore the mammoth task of getting civilians out of harm’s way.

The U.S. Embassy says as many as 107,000 U.S. civilians are in South Korea and efforts would be made to evacuate all of them in an emergency. At least 14,000 are family members of the 37,000 U.S. troops deployed in the South. The United States might also try to evacuate nationals of other allied countries as well.

About 12,000 people are expected to take part in the first of this year’s two exercises, some being evacuated to the southern city of Busan by train while others are airlifted to “safety” at U.S. bases in Japan aboard military aircraft, U.S. Army spokesman Stephen Oertwig said.

ASIAN Briefs

Two bombs explode in southwest Pakistan

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—Two bombs exploded in a residential neighborhood in southwestern Pakistan, but no injuries were reported, police said Saturday.

The explosions occurred late Friday in Quetta, the capital of southwestern Baluchistan province, said Aziz Ullah, a local police official. Nobody claimed responsibility for the attack.

The area near Quetta, 400 miles southwest of Pakistan’s capital, Islamabad, has had a string of bombings in recent months. The motive behind the attacks is not clear.

A bomb exploded near a police station in Quetta on Jan. 19. Another blew up under a tractor at a road construction project in Kohlu, 220 miles east of Quetta on Jan. 25. Neither blast caused any injuries.

Alarm delay made Chinese mall blaze worse

SHANGHAI, China (AP)—The high death toll in a Chinese shopping mall fire that killed 54 people was partly due to a delay in raising an alarm, the government said Friday.

Investigators say a cigarette that ignited materials in a storeroom caused the blaze Sunday in the northeastern city of Jilin. A man has been detained, but authorities have not said whether he was accused of intentionally starting the fire.

In Jilin, “experts said the fact that no one raised the alarm in time was the main reason for the large number of deaths,” the official Xinhua News Agency said without providing other details.

Earlier reports also said no one used fire extinguishers at the mall.

Xinhua said families would receive compensation of at least \$9,700 for each victim, and the mall’s owners will pay medical expenses.

Singapore’s richest man dies at 86

SINGAPORE (AP)—Singapore’s richest man, Khoo Teck Puat, has died of a heart attack, a newspaper reported Sunday. He was 86.

The Malaysian-born banker and hotel owner died Saturday night in a Singapore hospital, the Straits Times reported.

With an estimated fortune of \$2.6 billion, he was named Singapore’s richest man and ranked the 137th richest person in the world by Forbes magazine last year.

He owned the Goodwood Group of boutique hotels in London and Singapore and was the largest single shareholder of Britain’s Standard Chartered Bank, according to Forbes.

A widower, he is survived by 14 children, the newspaper said.

Militants planned airport attack in India

JAMMU, India (AP)—Police have arrested three militants who admitted to plotting a suicide attack at the international airport in India’s capital, an official said Saturday.

The men, based in neighboring Pakistan, were arrested several days ago in the Indian-portion of the Himalayan region of Kashmir, said Gopal Sharma, police chief of Jammu-Kashmir state.

During their interrogation, the men said they planned a suicide attack later this month at Indira Gahdhi International Airport in New Delhi, Sharma said.

The three have been identified as Assan Ulah, Mohammed Bashir and Rashid, who goes by only one name, Sharma said. All three are from Pakistan, he added.

Lashkar-e Tayyaba, a Pakistan-based guerrilla group, was behind the plan, he said.

Fire breaks out at Japanese nuclear plant

TOKYO (AP)—A fire briefly broke out Saturday on the roof of a Japanese nuclear facility that was shut down for regular inspections, a spokesman for the plant’s operator said.

No injuries were reported and no radiation was released in the accident at the nuclear power station in the central Japanese town of Hamaoka, said Shigehisa Osawa, a spokesman for Chubu Electric Power Co.

The fire was detected on the roof of a turbine building in a section of the plant containing two reactors that had been shut down earlier for regular inspections, plant worker Yuichi Kato said. Two other reactors several hundred yards away remained in operation, Kato said.

Firefighters were called and the blaze was confirmed extinguished after 45 minutes, Osawa said. Hamaoka is about 100 miles southwest of Tokyo.

China executes official in mine disaster

BEIJING (AP)—A former Communist Party official was executed Friday for trying to cover up a tin mine accident that killed 81 people in 2001, the government announced.

Wan Ruizhong, a former county party secretary in the southern region of Guangxi, was convicted of taking bribes from mine managers to conceal the July 17, 2001, accident. Other officials convicted in the disaster have been sentenced to up to 20 years in prison.

The government says miners at the Lajiapo mine drowned when blasting ripped open a hole in a wall separating them from an unused shaft filled with water. The death toll was high even by the standards of China’s accident-plagued mining industry.

The disaster caused a national scandal after it emerged that mine owners had bribed officials not to report it and had hired armed thugs to keep reporters away.

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World

Red Cross checks on Hussein for 1st time

By ROBERT H. REID
AP WRITER

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)—The International Red Cross visited Saddam Hussein in jail for the first time Saturday, and the ousted dictator wrote a letter to his family that will be delivered once the United States confirms it does not contain any hidden messages to his followers.

The announcement of the visit came after the U.S. administrator in Iraq, L. Paul Bremer, cited U.N. estimates that it may take 15

months to arrange elections—far longer than demanded by leading Iraqi politicians.

The two-member International Committee of the Red Cross delegation, which included a doctor, spoke to Saddam privately at an undisclosed location in Iraq, spokeswoman Nada Doumani said. The announcement dispelled rumors the Americans had spirited Saddam out of the country following his Dec. 13 capture in a hole near Tikrit.

“The aim of this visit is to

track and monitor the conditions of detention and treatment of the detainee,” Doumani said from Amman, Jordan. “We want to see whether he is getting enough food and water and also to check his health condition and to give him the possibility to write a message to his family—which he did.”

The visit was arranged after the Pentagon formally declared Saddam a prisoner of war last month because of his status as commander in chief of Iraq’s military. As a POW, Saddam is entitled under the

Geneva Conventions to certain rights, including visits by the international Red Cross and freedom from coercion of any kind during interrogations.

Saddam’s letter, presumably to his daughters in Jordan, will be delivered after American authorities make sure it contains no instructions to his followers or other banned messages.

The international Red Cross made no statement about Saddam’s health or conditions of confinement, routine practice for

the organization. Doumani said the Red Cross would periodically visit Saddam as long as he remains in custody, but she gave no further details.

The Red Cross has visited more than 10,000 prisoners in Iraq since March, even though fewer than 100 have been formally classified POWs, spokeswoman Antonella Notari said.

Red Cross operations in Iraq were curtailed, however, after a suicide bomber exploded a vehicle outside ICRC headquarters in Baghdad on Oct. 27. The bombing prompting the organization to evacuate its international staff.

The visit to Saddam came as the Americans and their Iraqi partners struggle to find a formula for constituting a new government to take power June 30. A plan to pick members of a new legislature through regional caucuses has been all but scrapped after the country’s leading Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani, insisted that the lawmakers be chosen in a national election.

Shiites, believed to comprise about 60 percent of Iraq’s 25 million people, are anxious for a vote to affirm their power after decades of suppression by the Sunni Muslim minority.

Tents in Kuwait serve as US dead’s mortuary

CAMPWOLVERINE, Kuwait (AP)—The bodies come in most every day. The American soldiers here strip them of their belongings and lay them in metal coffins packed with ice.

“Most people are scared of us,” said Spc. Steve Rawlings, who works in the white tent serving as the mortuary for U.S. soldiers killed in neighboring Iraq. “Most people don’t want to talk about death.”

The Theater Mortuary Evacuation Point occupies a forlorn cluster of tents at the back corner of this sand-covered base in Kuwait, hidden behind stacks of shipping containers.

Few people venture here, other than an occasional jogger and the 30 mortuary affairs specialists like Rawlings, who handle the American corpses shipped to the base. Outside the main tent, a hundred or more metal caskets—or “transfer cases”—sit at the ready, each wrapped in plastic. A dusty refrigerator truck with a windshield sticker reading “Mortuary” is parked nearby.

The soldiers—all members of the U.S. Army’s 54th Quartermaster Company, based at Fort Lee, Va.—have one of the most difficult and delicate jobs in the U.S. military. Few get as realistic a view of the war’s stark toll on Americans.

US military deaths in Iraq

As of Friday, Feb. 20, 544 U.S. service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defense. Of those, 378 died as a result of hostile action and 166 died of non-hostile causes, the department said. The department did not provide an update Saturday.

The British military has reported 58 deaths; Italy, 17; Spain, eight; Bulgaria, five; Thailand, two; Denmark, Ukraine and Poland have reported one each.

Since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 406 U.S. soldiers have died - 263 as a result of hostile action and 143 of non-hostile causes, according to the military.

Since the start of military operations, 2,685 U.S. service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department’s figures as of Friday. Non-hostile injured numbered 415. (AP)

British PM to seek third term

LONDON (AP)—British Prime Minister Tony Blair, his popularity bruised after leading Britain into a divisive war in Iraq, said he intends to seek a third term in office.

In an interview published Sunday in the News of the World newspaper, Blair said that “whatever the problems and pressures, this is an immensely enjoyable and fulfilling job and I intend to carry on doing it. I will be putting myself forward.”

An election must be held by mid-2006, but could come next year.

Blair’s Labour Party was elected in 1997 after 18 years of Conservative rule, and won

another landslide victory in 2001. But Blair’s decision to join the U.S.-led war in Iraq has hurt his popularity, and many Labour lawmakers are unhappy at the government’s plans for reforming public services.

“You have people kicking lumps out of you, but you can live with it, and I do,” Blair was quoted as saying.

Some reports have suggested Blair might step down as party leader in favor of Treasury chief Gordon Brown, who is thought to covet the top job. In the British parliamentary system, the leader of the party with the most seats in the House of Commons usually becomes prime minister.

state rehab

Aristide agrees to Haiti peace plan

By MARK STEVENSON
AP WRITER

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—President Jean-Bertrand Aristide agreed Saturday to a U.S.-backed peace plan to share power with political opponents, but his rivals resisted, saying he must step down for there to be peace in Haiti.

A delegation of diplomats led by Roger Noriega, the top U.S. envoy for the Western Hemisphere, ended a one-day trip to Haiti after failing to win over Aristide's opponents, but said they were optimistic

that an agreement could be reached.

Aristide, who would remain president under the plan, said he had agreed to a new prime minister and government to organize elections.

But he declared he would "not go ahead with any terrorists," meaning he would not negotiate with rebels who have led a bloody two-week-old uprising that has killed more than 60 people and chased police from a score of towns.

One of the gang leaders who began the rebellion asked where the plan left him. "What about me? When the

international community come into Haiti ... they (will) take my gun," Buteur Metayer

told Associated Press Television News in Gonaives, the biggest city held by the rebels. "He (Aristide is) going to kill me."

The opposition politicians are not allied with the rebels, but both want to see Aristide step down. The political opponents met with foreign envoys Saturday and promised to deliver a formal response to the peace proposal by 5 p.m. Monday.



Aristide

But they indicated that their answer would remain the same.

"We expect the international community to understand our position ... which will not change," said Gerard Pierre-Charles, a leading opposition leader once allied with Aristide.

Foreign Minister Fred Mitchell of the Bahamas remained optimistic that the opposition could be won over, telling reporters, "While we did not

get a yes, we did not get a no."

Saturday's mediation efforts came as the United States urged citizens to leave the country amid mounting violence by Aristide militants in government-held areas. The rebels, meanwhile, threatened to attack Haiti's second-largest city, the northern port of Cap-Haitien, over the Carnival holiday weekend.

Throughout the recent bloodshed, Aristide, who has survived three assassination attempts and a coup d'etat, has said he will not step down before his term ends in 2006.

UN: Libya processed some plutonium

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—Supplied by the worldwide black market, Libya processed a small amount of plutonium in a nuclear weapons program that remained undetected for 20 years until Tripoli went public with its efforts, the U.N. atomic watchdog agency said Friday.

Citing a confidential report from the International Atomic Energy Agency, diplomats said Libya separated grams of the substance, much less than the nearly 7 pounds required to make a nuclear bomb.

Still, the revelation appeared to reflect a nuclear arms program that was

substantially more advanced than the agency initially estimated.

IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei prepared the 10-page report ahead of an agency board of governors' meeting next month, and diplomats shared it with The Associated Press.

Libya announced in December it sought to develop weapons of mass destruction and promised to scrap its research programs. It was one of several moves by Moammar Gadhafi to end Libya's international isolation and shed its image as a rogue nation.

American and British intelligence agencies spoke of a fairly advanced nuclear

program, but the IAEA initially described it as being at the beginning stages.

The report said Libya "imported nuclear material and conducted a wide variety of nuclear activities which it had failed to report" to the IAEA as required by agreements with the agency, diplomats said. Those imports included centrifuges, which are machines that can be used to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons or nuclear power.

Much of Libya's efforts focused on enriching uranium, the report said. That—along with producing plutonium—is one way to develop the nuclear material used in warheads.

Iran's hard-liners, reformists claim wins

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Islamic hard-liners and reformists both claimed victory in Iran's elections Saturday, with returns showing conservatives ahead in the race for parliament but a reformist boycott limiting voter turnout.

Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the winner of the election was the Iranian nation. He was upbeat about voter turnout, even though it marked a drop from previous elections.

"The loser of this election is the United States, Zionism and enemies of the Iranian nation," he told state media.

A reformist who called for a boycott, Ali Shakourirad, pointed to a voter turnout of less than 30 percent in the capital, Tehran, calling the poll "a big defeat for conservatives."

Official partial returns also suggested the boycott had an impact elsewhere in the country, with voter

turnout some 15 percent lower than in elections four years ago.

That trend, if it holds, would mark a significant moral victory for liberals who urged a boycott after hard-line clerics barred some 2,400 reformist from running for the 290-seat parliament.

Conservatives hoped people would ignore the boycott, showing the strength of the Islamic state 25 years after the revolution that ousted the secular, pro-Western shah. Reformists hoped low turnout would strengthen their drive for openness and accountability.

Reformists have complained that the vote was rigged, and the United States also criticized the disqualifications of candidates including the biggest names in liberal politics.

Results for nearly 60 percent of the legislature gave hard-liners more than 110 seats—36 short of the majority they were widely expected to get, the Interior Ministry said.



An aerial view of an 8-meter-tall cement wall, part of the barrier Israel is building to separate the outskirts of Jerusalem, left, from the West Bank, is seen in the Palestinian village of Abu Dis Feb. 17, 2004.

Palestinians protest West Bank barrier

NABLUS, West Bank (AP)—Thousands of Palestinians staged protests of Israel's West Bank barrier Saturday and Israel prepared to remove a small stretch of its fencing, two days before the start of world court hearings on the legality of the structure.

In one of the largest public outpourings of anger over the barrier, Palestinians across the West Bank fired guns in the air and shouted anti-barrier chants—the first of several protests planned to coincide with the opening of hearings on Monday at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands.

On Sunday, Israeli workers are to

begin removing a part of the barrier—about five miles of fencing, razor wire and trenches—that has isolated the Palestinian town of Baka al-Sharkia from the rest of the West Bank for more than a year, Defense Ministry spokeswoman Rachel Niedak-Ashkenazi said.

That section of fence is to be removed now that workers have completed a series of concrete walls and fences separating the town's western side from Israel, she said. A gate will allow passage to a "sister" town, Baka al-Gharbia, just inside the boundary with Israel.

"Since there is no intention to annex land or annex Palestinians to Israel, we

are removing this part of the fence," Niedak-Ashkenazi said.

The move appeared aimed at softening international criticism of Israel ahead of the world court hearings. Israel has come under increasing pressure—even domestic legal challenges—to reroute the barrier, which dips deep into the West Bank in places.

The complex of walls, fences, razor wire and watchtowers has become one of the most contentious issues in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Israel says the barrier is needed to stop suicide bombers and other attackers from entering Israeli towns and cities.



27 dead in Moscow water park disaster

MOSCOW (AP)—A woman injured in the Feb. 14 roof collapse at a Moscow water park has died in a hospital, bringing the death toll in the accident to 27, Russian news reports said Saturday.

Of the more than 100 people injured, 44 remained hospitalized on Saturday, the reports said. On Wednesday, rescuers found the body of a boy who died in the accident.

The precise cause of the collapse of the glass and concrete dome over the Transvaal water park in Moscow's southern suburbs remains undetermined.

A government panel investigating the accident is focusing on the design and construction of the roof, the materials used, and the building's maintenance.

Envoy: US has no plans to attack Cuba

HAVANA (AP)—America's chief diplomat in Havana issued a statement Friday to emphasize that no U.S. military action is planned against Cuba.

The statement by James Cason, chief of the U.S. Interests Section, was distributed to international journalists in Cuba one week after President Fidel Castro challenged President Bush to be clear about how

Washington plans to realize a transition to democracy on the island.

For nearly a year, Castro and other officials have publicly expressed concerns that the U.S. military could attack the communist nation.

In a public speech, Castro wondered aloud if Washington was planning to kill him. Last month, Castro directly accused Bush of plotting with Cuban exiles in Miami to assassinate him.

Official: Serbian war crimes not priority

BELGRADE, Serbia-Montenegro (AP)—Serbia's new prime minister said Saturday that extraditing top suspects to the U.N. war crimes tribunal will not be his top priority, defying U.S. threats to cut aid and crucial political support to the troubled Balkan republic.

Vojislav Kostunica, the former Yugoslav president and a longtime opponent of the U.N. tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, told The Associated Press that Serbia has more important issues to deal with—like simmering social tensions and a ruined economy.

"We should talk—plead if necessary ... to find a solution that is not black and white and which allows us to survive," said Kostunica, who like many Serbs condemns the U.N. court as anti-Serb. "This country is not a simple deliverer of human goods to The Hague tribunal."

Health & Fitness

Scientists study how to keep brain awake

By MALCOLM RITTER
AP SCIENCE WRITER

Why would a sleep-deprived brain fail to absorb conversations? Just how does it produce drowsiness while a person is driving? Indeed, how does it know it needs more sleep in the first place?

These aren't just esoteric ponderings. The answers to these and related mysteries about the sleepy brain could lead to improved drugs to help people fall asleep or stay awake. They could help drowsy people find the most effective time to drink coffee or take a nap.

Frank Knower knew something was wrong when he kept having conversations with co-workers and later couldn't remember a thing that was said. He couldn't even remember what he'd said.

Later, after he retired, he discovered another problem: He got irresistibly drowsy during long drives.

None of the usual stay-awake tricks like turning up the radio or rolling down the window could keep him awake. He had to pull over for naps.

These days, his wife handles a lot of the driving. And while the 74-year-old Knower can still nod off during the day at his home in Tappan, N.Y., treatment for his sleep-disrupting condition, apnea, and a daytime alertness pill help keep his problems in check.

For Knower, it's a story with a happy ending. For scientists, though, it's a story full of mystery.

Scientists may even find safe and reliable ways to skip slumber entirely for days without the usual mental glitches.

"You could have soldiers who could fight a war 24 hours a day and maybe not sleep, at least for a few days," said Dr. Clifford Saper of Harvard Medical School. "If you knew what was making the brain sleepy, you could get at it at a fundamental level ... I think once we learn how the system operates we'll be able to successfully manipulate it."

Of course, in an economy with such potentially perilous round-the-clock workplaces as trucks, airplanes, nuclear power plants and supertankers, even helping people sleep and function well one day at a time would be a benefit.

An estimated 70 million people in the United States suffer from sleep problems, either because of disorders such as apnea and insomnia or just a lack of time devoted to slumber, the

federal government says. At least 100,000 auto crashes and 1,550 traffic deaths a year are caused by falling asleep at the wheel.

And sleep deprivation leads to reduced productivity, poor performance in school or the workplace, and possibly medical problems like high blood pressure, heart disease, depression and reduced resistance to viruses.

"Sleep is as important to our overall health as exercise and a healthy diet," says Dr. Carl Hunt, director of the government's National Center on Sleep Disorders Research.

So how much sleep is enough? The typical recommendation is at least eight hours a night for adults. But in the February issue of the journal *Sleep*, an expert called on doctors to abandon that blanket prescription.

"It appears seven hours or even five or six is safe for people who aren't sleepy during the day," said Dr. Daniel Kripke of the School of Medicine of the University of California, San Diego.

Kripke cited large studies that tracked death rates in people who habitually slept different lengths of time. But "if someone is sleepy during the day with less than eight hours, as I am myself, then I think it might be wise to get eight hours sleep," he said.

Hunt said sleep studies overall indicate that adults generally need seven to eight hours a night to be well-rested.



"As you ratchet down from seven hours to six or five or four, there's a progressively greater price" in illness, accidents and mental malfunctioning, Hunt said.

Studies show people can sleep too little and still feel fine during the day, but that's because people stop realizing they're impaired if they sleep too little night after night, Hunt said. So while there probably are some people who truly function well on six hours a night, they can't just rely on how they feel, he said.

Teenagers need around 8.5 hours of sleep a night, and younger children should aim for about nine hours, he said.

When the brain runs on too little sleep, it malfunctions in a wide variety of areas:

- Your reaction time slows and you have trouble paying

sustained attention. Driving is "the worst kind of thing," especially in bumper-to-bumper situations or lonely roads, said Edward Stepanski of the Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. "You're forced to sit still, so you can't move around and do things people ordinarily do to keep awake, and you're staring at the road."

- You have trouble keeping tabs on multiple sources of information. So you ignore some of them to focus on a few, and "you fail to notice that you're running out of gas," said David Dinges at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

- Creativity suffers. You get stuck on bad solutions and can't think of better ones.

- You can't remember as much, and "a sleepy brain is just not very good at learning new

information," Stepanski said.

- Your brain just can't do some critical things in a hurry.

If given the luxury of time, it actually does pretty well with tasks like making decisions and solving complicated problems, says Hans Van Dongen at the University of Pennsylvania. That's because the brain has "an almost stunning ability to find tricks" to get around some hurdles imposed by sleep loss, he said.

So if you work late in your office answering e-mails without any reason to hurry, you'll probably do all right, though you might have to read some sentences a couple times, he said. But then, as you drive home, you have to react and make decisions—right away.

"And you find that, oops, you're still impaired, after all, even though you didn't notice

it," Van Dongen said. "And now you've got a problem."

Much of the overall problem in the sleepy brain is what scientists call microsleeps, repeated periods of a second or two, or maybe 10, when you just zone out and don't process information.

Microsleeps reflect "a kind of struggle inside the brain at the most fundamental biological level" between sleep and wakefulness, producing a sort of in-between state of reverie or inattentiveness, Dinges said. A person might look awake to a casual observer during microsleeps of a couple seconds, or the episodes can be more obvious.

Think of trying to stay awake at a meeting after partying all night. As Dinges observes in lab experiments, the eyeballs try to roll, the eyelids move unusually slowly and neck muscles start to go limp, which suggests that even muscle-control parts of the brain participate in sleepiness.

Work in Dinges' lab has shown that after a few nights of too little sleep, people stop realizing their daytime performance is suffering. So researchers are studying whether machines can do a better job of spotting sleep-deprived people.

Dinges said federal investigators are now seeing whether specialized monitors can track slowly closing eyelids in truckers. Studies suggest that's a reliable sign of impairment, he said.

cpa ports

Life & Style



Brazil's carnival celebration continues

By MICHAEL ASTOR
AP WRITER

After a night of partying, men in wedding dresses, women in nun's habits, and imitation Arab sheiks danced with 40,000 others to traditional sambas on the second day of the world's most famous carnival celebration Saturday.

Carnival began with the usual raucous crowds dancing in the streets. On Saturday morning, the hordes turned out for the Cordao de Bola Preta—one of the last traditional carnival brass bands. The band, whose name roughly translates to "Black Ball Band," has played every carnival since 1918.

Jason Rouleau, a chef from Rhode Island, was among the revelers crowding around the sound truck holding the band as it blasted trumpets, trombones and tubas, instruments rarely used in carnival bands today.

"It's amazing. It's absolutely amazing," Rouleau said as he danced in Cinelandia square. "It's the first time I've experienced this. It's nothing like I thought it would be. Words can't describe it."

The festivities, however, were tainted by a bus accident that killed 40 revelers on their way to the celebrations Saturday. The bus veered off the two-lane highway and plunge into a reservoir in the northeastern town of Barros.

Officials expect some 400,000 tourists to converge on the city for the five-day pre-Lenten bash. The Queen Mary 2, the world's largest ocean liner, docked in Rio on Saturday for the celebration.

The band paraded down Rio Branco Avenue, the same road the official carnival parade used to follow before the city moved the celebration into the specially designed Sambadrome stadium in 1984.

Tickets for the Sambadrome celebration, the highlight of carnival, are too pricey for many Brazilians.

"There's no class difference here, anyone rich or poor, black or white can parade with the Bola Preta," said Olivia Leal da Silva, 74.

Festivities were also underway in cities across Brazil.

In the northeastern city of Recife, tens of thousands of revelers crowded into the downtown area to dance to live music, while a samba parade much like Rio's took place in a Sao Paulo stadium.

In the Afro-Brazilian city of Salvador da Bahia, festivities were going full throttle early Saturday after only short break for street cleaners to do their work.

In Rio, the colorful samba bands were gearing up for a competition Saturday to win a coveted spot in the lineup for Sunday's and Monday's performances at the Sambadrome.

Scottish art student depicts 9/11

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP)—A soft sculpture of Mickey Mouse flying an airplane toward flaming, crying World Trade Center towers has caused a stir at a college art exhibit.

Alan Bennie, a student of the Edinburgh College of Art, titled his work about the Sept. 11 terror attacks "Mickey's Taliban Adventures."

One museum director has called the work "dreadful." The exhibitions coordinator at the Royal Scottish Academy defended it as "social and political comment."

The work, made of stuffed fabric, shows the Disney icon flying a toy plane near the leaning towers of the World Trade Center—depicted with

eyes and eyebrows. One toppled building sheds a tear while another looks toward the airborne Mickey Mouse as he approaches in a plane.

"What a bland thought process—a work depicting Disney as the root of all the troubles of the world. How original. It sounds dreadful," Julian Spalding, art critic and former director of Glasgow's museums and galleries, told Glasgow's Sunday Herald newspaper.

But Colin Greenslade, the academy's exhibitions coordinator, said Friday the piece "is about making you think."

A visitor looks at a sculpture entitled 'Mickey's Taliban Adventures', which features Mickey flying an aeroplane into the Towers, at the Royal Scottish Academy in Edinburgh, Scotland, Friday.



A passenger from the Queen Mary 2, the biggest ocean liner, dances with Brazilian carnival revelers after arriving to the port of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Saturday, Feb. 21, 2004.

Bush family dog Spot put to sleep

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush's dog Spot, the 15-year-old English springer spaniel who had remained eager to please despite increasing health troubles, died Saturday. Bush and his wife, Laura, went along with a veterinarian's recommendation to put Spotty, as the longtime Bush family pet was known, to sleep, according to White House spokesman Allen Abney. She had suffered a series of strokes recently, including one this week, he said.

"The president and Mrs. Bush and the entire Bush family are deeply saddened by the passing of Spot," White House press secretary Scott McClellan

said Saturday in a statement. "A loyal and loving companion, Spot was a beloved member of the Bush family for nearly 15 years. She will be missed."

Spot was no stranger to the White House. She was born there to Millie, the well-known dog of Bush's parents, former President George H.W. Bush and his wife, Barbara, in 1989.

The friendly brown-and-white spaniel was regularly seen ambling around the West Wing and the South Lawn alongside the more energetic other Bush dog, Barney, a black 3-year-old Scottish terrier.

The two dogs were routinely brought

out to greet the president upon his return to the White House from trips, no matter the hour, and often traveled with the Bushes to Texas or Camp David. Spot was always the more obedient, dutifully clambering onto a helicopter or Air Force One with no prompting while Bush often had to chase Barney down and hand him off to an aide to be carried aboard.

Mrs. Bush has often said that—especially with Bushes' two daughters off at college—talking about and playing with the dogs and the family's much more reclusive cat, Willy, make up a significant portion of the First Couple's entertainment.

Producer Joe Roth to allow stars 'moments'

By ANTHONY BREZNICAN
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—You can't tell Clint Eastwood to shut up. When Hollywood hands out the Oscars, acceptance speeches are one of the few unpredictable things. So Joe Roth, the movie mogul enlisted to boost the telecast's sagging ratings—and who has never produced a minute of TV—will let his stars have their say during the Feb. 29 ceremony.

"Philosophically, my feeling is that these shows are about moments. They're about moments that you get lucky with," said the 55-year-old head of Revolution Studios. "Some of it is from the casting, some is getting lucky with awards, but most of it really is trying to make an atmosphere that allows the performers to feel comfortable

and speak from the heart."

The producer spoke while sitting with Oscar director Louis J. Horvitz among the thousands of empty seats in the Kodak Theatre as workers delivered pieces of the shimmering Academy Awards set through a massive, sunlit door behind the stage.

Last year, Oscar producer Gil Cates delivered an ominous warning to nominees at a luncheon weeks before his telecast: "If you pull out a piece of paper and start to read a list of names, you're done."

So was his tension-filled broadcast, which took place amid the U.S. invasion of Iraq. It turned out to be the least-watched Oscar ceremony since Nielsen Media Research began keeping records in 1974.

This year, Roth addressed the nominees more casually at

the luncheon, not trying to shame them into being clever or fun. He just asked everyone to think ahead—and to remember they'll be on television.

"Joe was very diplomatic," said Horvitz, who has directed the Oscars eight times. "I think the safety of the performer is great in Joe's hands. They're not worried about stepping out of line."

Roth added, "How am I going to say (no) to Clint Eastwood? Or Sean Penn? Not only are they adults, but they are the best in their field. So really, all you can ask them to do is to try to give some sense of how special it is."

An estimated 33.1 million people watched "Chicago" win best picture last year, down sharply from the 41.8 million who watched "A Beautiful Mind" win the top prize the previous year.

"There has been a down trend since 'Titanic' (in 1998), which was the last really big, up year," Roth said.

About 55.2 million viewers tuned in that time. "Titanic" was a blockbuster that many millions of people had seen—much like this year's "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," which has a leading 11 nominations. That's the main advantage for Roth.

He's also aiming for the funnybone with the return of popular Oscar host Billy Crystal and presenters such as Robin Williams, Jim Carrey, Will Ferrell and Jack Black.

Another change: Less musical numbers. "As a kid, I didn't really like those 15- or 20-minute musical numbers," Roth said. "When I saw ballet on the Oscars, I went out and got a sandwich."



Writers Guild award winners named

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Lost in Translation" and "American Splendor" took top screenwriting honors Saturday from the Writers Guild of America.

Sofia Coppola's "Lost in

Translation," about two lonely Americans who strike up an unlikely friendship in Tokyo, was named best original screenplay. She also directed the film, which stars Bill Murray.

Best adapted screenplay honors went to Robert Pulcini and Shari Springer Berman for "American Splendor," which is based on the underground comic books that detail the life of Harvey

Pekar and a novel Pekar wrote with his wife, Joyce Brabner.

The 56th annual awards were presented in simultaneous ceremonies in New York and Los Angeles.

Lost Brian Wilson album premieres in UK

By JILL LAWLESS
AP WRITER

LONDON (AP)—In 1967, Beach Boys songwriter Brian Wilson shelved "Smile," an ambitious concept album intended as the group's masterpiece.

Thirty-seven years later, "Smile" received its live premiere in London on Saturday—and most critics agreed it was worth the wait.

Wilson, 61 and performing again after years as a near recluse, received a five-minute standing ovation at the end of Friday's show at London's Royal Festival Hall.

A black-clad Wilson led an 18-piece band in performances of several Beach Boys hits, followed by the complete

"Smile"—concluding with its best-known track, the pop classic "Good Vibrations."

Fans were rapturous. The Guardian newspaper hailed the work's "groundbreaking complexity and sophistication," while The Daily Telegraph called it "a glorious, tangled symphony of celebration and sadness."

"Smile" was intended as a follow-up to The Beach Boys' groundbreaking 1966 album "Pet Sounds," and its lush orchestration took advantage of advances in recording technology.

The perfectionist Wilson worked for months to build the album's multilayered sound, but shelved it shortly before its scheduled release, explaining that the songs were "not commercial."

Over the years, "Smile"

gained a reputation among fans as the band's lost masterpiece.

It may not deserve that status, Times of London critic Stephen Dalton wrote Saturday, but he nonetheless hailed "the grace and wisdom" Wilson displayed.

"Smile," he said, was "a 40-minute crazy-paving collage of song fragments and Looney Tunes jingles, all bookended by the lush glory of 'Heroes and Villains' and the rapturous warble of 'Good Vibrations' ... It was clearly adventurous for its era but it is not difficult to see why Wilson's label and fellow Beach Boys balked at releasing it."

Wilson is due to play five more London concerts this week, followed by several dates around Britain and continental Europe.

Janet Jackson act not federal case

WASHINGTON (AP)—Most Americans think the exposure of Janet Jackson's right breast during the Super Bowl halftime show was crass, but few believe it's a federal case.

An Associated Press poll found 54 percent of those surveyed said they thought the act, in which singer Justin Timberlake snatched off part of Jackson's bustier and revealed her breast to millions of television viewers was bad taste. Only 18 percent thought it was an illegal act.

The Federal Communications Commission is investigating whether the broadcast

violated federal indecency laws.

According to the poll conducted for the AP by Ipsos-Public Affairs, the FCC ought to spend its time on other things. Nearly 80 percent of respondents said it's a waste of money to investigate.

"I can see how parents wouldn't want their children to see it," said Diana Foster, a 50-year-old resident of Nicholas County, Ky., in the central part of the state. "But an investigation is a waste of money. Sure it wasn't very nice, but they're using our tax money for this."

In the AP-Ipsos poll, women were more likely than men to say

the halftime show should be investigated, and whites more likely than blacks. Republicans were twice as likely as Democrats to favor an investigation. Young adults were less likely than other age groups to think an investigation was called for.

A fourth of those in the poll said the act was neither in bad taste nor illegal. Almost half of young adults between age 18 and 29 said the display was neither. Unmarried men, people without college degrees and those who made lower incomes were more likely to think it was not in bad taste or illegal.

camacho

Teen's feeling of depression may be legacy from mother

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: My mother died when I was 7. I'm 13 now, and my father just told me Mom suffered from bad depression toward the end of her life. He also said that it would worry him a great deal if I had depression, too.

I'm afraid I do. I get sad easily and I have thought about suicide, but I don't know why. It could be the stress of my family life, but it can't still be about my mother's passing, can it? That was six years ago.

I actually scare myself sometimes, but I don't think my depression is bad enough to see someone about it.

What do you think?

SCARED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR SCARED: It's time to talk to your father. Depression can run in families. You also need to tell a professional exactly what you have told me. Please don't put it off. The sooner you get professional help, the sooner you will feel better.

DEAR ABBY: I am unemployed right now. I become extremely nervous when I fill out a job application because I have a bankruptcy on my record. Several potential employers have indicated they will check my credit rating as part of their standard background search. I was having terrible money problems when I filed bankruptcy a little over a year ago. But since then I have joined a 12-step group called Debtors Anonymous, and it is helping me a great deal. If I didn't have this bankruptcy on my credit report, I don't think I'd have any trouble at all getting a job.

How should I handle this at a job interview?

RECOVERING DEBTOR

DEAR RECOVERING: Tell the truth. The way the economy has been, you won't be the only one with a bankruptcy showing up on your credit report. To admit that you had a problem and are doing something about it is nothing to be ashamed of.

DEAR ABBY: I was in the parking lot of a shopping center when I noticed an older woman two cars away yelling and hitting a little girl. The girl looked about 6 or 7.

I got into my car, pulled up next to them and called out, "Are you OK?" The little girl was crying and trying to straighten her scarf; the woman snapped back, "Yes, she's OK!"

This kind of behavior really bothers me. I frequently see adults slap, hit, pinch and berate their children—even babies in strollers. These adults seem to be out of control, and everybody ignores them or looks away.

Sometimes I stare at the parent or walk slowly by to let them know that I know what they're doing. One time, I reported a mother who kept slapping and scolding her Down syndrome daughter. The girl was doing nothing wrong and kept repeating, "I'm your FRIEND." It turns out slapping is legal in Virginia where I live. And by the way, I live in one of the wealthiest counties in the nation.

What can I do to help some of these kids? Any suggestions would be appreciated.

SAD AND DISGUSTED IN VIRGINIA

DEAR SAD AND DISGUSTED: I checked with several state agencies and found out that although slapping may be legal in Virginia, the state policy is "open to interpretation." The Virginia Department of Social Services operates a 24-hour statewide, child-abuse-reporting hot line. If a report is deemed valid, a local agency will conduct an investigation. The in-state number is (800) 552-7096; from out of state, the number is (804) 786-8536.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)



Dear Abby

Brown jailed in probation violation

DECATUR, Ga. (AP)—Singer Bobby Brown is back in jail for violating his probation on a prior drunken driving conviction.

Brown, 35, was being held Saturday without bond at the DeKalb County Jail, sheriff's spokeswoman Mikki Jones said.

He was taken into custody after appearing before a judge Friday, but officials could not confirm exactly what Brown had done to violate his probation.

He was expected to remain jailed until a court hearing on Friday.

The judge's ruling may have

been related to Brown's charge of misdemeanor battery in December, following an argument with his wife, singer Whitney Houston. A preliminary hearing in that case was set for May 5.

Brown left the R&B group New Edition in the late 1980s for

a solo career. He has been on probation since January 2003, when he was convicted of a 1996 drunken driving incident. Brown had been ordered to remain on probation until Feb. 17, 2005.

Brown's hits include "My Prerogative" and "Every Little Step."

Norah Jones wary of 'The Daily Show'

NEW YORK (AP)—Norah Jones has done countless interviews with relative ease, but her scheduled chat with Jon Stewart of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show" has the songbird feeling a bit apprehensive.

"I'm afraid I'm going to say something stupid," the Grammy-winning singer told The Associated Press in a recent interview.

Jones is scheduled to appear Wednesday. She's on a promotional tour for her new album, "Feels Like Home."

"I know what's going on, but I'm not like current event savvy. I'm not perfect, I don't know everything. I'm a bit nervous about that," the singer said.

Jones won't be performing, but she'll chat with Stewart, of whom she raves: "He's so smart."

"I hope he doesn't say something and I'm like, 'I don't know,'" she said, laughing.

Her mother is a big fan of "The Daily Show," Jones said. The singer doesn't watch television that often, she said, and doesn't even have cable. Instead, she prefers to read.

"I've always loved to read, but sometimes I go for a year without reading a book because I forget to, or I don't have a book that I can get into easily," she said. "Recently I've been reading a lot more."

Singer Norah Jones poses at Blue Note Records in New York, Jan. 29, 2004.

AP



Davis keeping 'Sex and the City' wardrobe



Actress Kristin Davis is shown during the launching of Barneys holiday windows on Madison Avenue in New York in this Nov. 18, 2003 file photo.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kristin Davis of "Sex and the City" will always have the show in her heart—and in her closet. Davis played eternal optimist Charlotte York on the HBO series, which ends Sunday after six seasons. The actress said keeping most of the clothes was part of the deal.

"I have a lot of quintessential 'Charlotte' pieces," Davis told AP Radio recently. "I have a lot of her vintage clothes. I have a lot of her shoes, except for the ones that I'm really, really sick of because they hurt."

Davis said the series, about four women living in Manhattan, dramatically changed her life.

"What it's like to walk

around in the world is completely different, in a way that has taken some getting used to, but is really incredibly flattering, especially now that we're going and people are so sad and kind of adorable about it, and it just makes you so thankful to have been a part of it," she said.

"Sex and the City" also starred Sarah Jessica Parker as sex columnist Carrie Bradshaw, Kim Cattrall as promiscuous Samantha Jones and Cynthia Nixon as cynical Miranda Hobbes.

Edited versions of the HBO series will begin appearing on cable's TBS later this year.

Guitarist suggested Dylan change his song

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—It takes a lot of guts to tell Bob Dylan to change his song.

But guitarist Kevin Odegard says he did during the Minneapolis sessions for Dylan's classic 1975 album "Blood on the Tracks."

Odegard is one of the uncredited musicians who played on the album in 1974 at Sound 80, a studio in south Minneapolis. He recalls the musicians going over a version

of one of Dylan's songs, but the singer didn't care for it.

Dylan then asked Odegard what he thought.

"And I said, 'Well, it's passable,'" Odegard told AP Radio. "I got 'the look,' and began to sweat right through my clothes."

Odegard, 53, offered a suggestion—moving the song up a key, from G to A. The musicians played it halfway through the first verse and Dylan liked it, Odegard said.

The song, "Tangled Up in Blue," ended up kicking off "Blood on the Tracks" and is still performed by Dylan in concert.

Odegard and some of the musicians on the album are reuniting for a March 3 performance in Minneapolis. Dylan isn't on the lineup, though.

Odegard also has co-written a book on those recording sessions called "A Simple Twist Of Fate: Bob Dylan and the Making of 'Blood on the Tracks.'"

Lawmakers protest Amish reality series

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—More than 50 members of Congress want the UPN television network to drop plans for a reality-format series featuring Amish teenagers testing their faith in the big city.

"The mentality reminds me of the old sideshows in the circus," Rep. Joe Pitts of Pennsylvania said in an interview Friday. "And it is wrong to do this to a minority group like the Amish."

Members of the sect, which is concentrated in rural Pennsylvania, Indiana and Ohio, are known for dressing simply and shunning most technology. But when Amish teens are 16 they're allowed to break free of their strict code before deciding whether they want to be baptized as adults.

During the period of "rumspringa," a Pennsylvania Dutch term that means "running around," the teens often date, drink, drive cars and move away from home. Most then return to the faith.

When Leslie Moonves, the chairman of CBS who also oversees UPN, spoke about the show last month, the setting he had in mind was Los Angeles.

Pastimes

WONDERWORD
By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SLIPPERY WHEN WET

Solution: 6 letters

S	Y	R	E	H	T	I	L	S	D	E	W	J	P	B
E	S	A	E	R	G	I	M	N	R	E	G	N	A	D
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O	L	A	I	G	R	A	H	T	N	N	R	A	M	P
F	G	D	D	G	T	E	C	O	A	E	E	E	E	P
O	M	D	①	S	R	L	I	T	L	O	A	N	N	A
O	L	E	O	①	I	T	B	E	I	R	C	Y	T	I
T	I	R	P	M	①	S	A	L	E	O	T	I	U	N
I	F	I	A	D	O	⑤	L	D	U	F	N	C	M	T
N	R	T	N	A	E	S	A	I	A	N	R	I	B	C
G	E	O	K	N	L	V	N	R	D	E	D	N	L	S
S	C	E	T	I	E	L	C	O	A	E	L	E	E	P
R	D	E	S	K	A	T	E	M	W	E	A	S	R	O
T	L	O	O	S	E	D	E	W	I	N	E	S	S	T

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Banana, Blunder, Clean, Climate, Coating, Condition, Crafty, Cream, Damp, Danger, Dewiness, Evade, Film, Footing, Free, Frost, Glossy, Grass, Grease, Grip, Ground, Iciness, Imminent, Jam, Ladder, Liquid, Loose, Paint, Pavement, Peel, Ramp, Release, Roads, Roof, Salt, Silt, Skate, Skin, Slide, Slither, Smeared, Snow, Soaked, Spot, Traction, Tumble, Weather, Well.
Last Saturday's Answer: Nurture
NOTE: Postage and handling charges have changed for The Collector's Wonderword. Add \$3 for the first book ordered, \$1 more for each additional book. Volumes 17 and 18 are \$5.95 each; payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Send to WONDERWORD, 4320 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free 1-800-255-4734, ext. 8113.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	36 Skinfint	4 Actress	21 First
1 Needle case	37 Inspiration for Strauss	Sanford	course, often
5 Turf	40 Frat party item	5 Glaswegian	22 Stereo hookup
8 "The Georgia Peach"	41 Monad	6 Bobby of hockey	23 Washing-ton or Shore
12 Utter destruction	42 Wind-driven toy	7 Dug more	25 Laws
14 Wheel-base terminus	47 Initial chip	8 Where Thanks-giving is in October	26 Take a gander
15 Gilbert & Sullivan's ship	48 Re NY, NJ and CT, e.g.	9 Yoked duo	27 Chantilly, for one
16 Broadway brightener	49 Mad monarch of Brit lit	10 Coalition of N.B.	29 Obsessed seaman
17 Airborne Dracula	50 Prepared party	11 Part of N.B.	31 In support of
18 Strut about	51 Type of party	13 Some-where out there	33 Gender-less
20 Leading man in the theater?	DOWN	19 CSA soldiers	34 Aurora borealis, e.g.
23 Action	1 Napo-leon's title (Abbr.)	20 Dos Passos trilogy	36 Church array
24 Earth	2 Mai —		37 Two-way
25 "Tommy" contest	3 Ensigns' org.		38 Bancroft or Boleyn
28 Wieder-sehen preceder			39 Silents actress
29 Composer Thomas, et al.			Naldi
30 LummoX			40 Heal, as a fracture
32 Nitwit			43 Rage
34 Crazy			44 Corrode
35 Apiece			45 Greek vowel

J	O	S	H	P	O	R	K	L	O	B		
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G	A	T		W	E	L	D		D	Y	E	D

Saturday's answer 2-23


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47					48							
49					50				51			


STUMPED?
For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.


CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY
Howard Jones, Patricia Richardson, Johnny Winter, Peter Fonda


HAPPY BIRTHDAY: You will have the discipline, desire and the determination to make things happen this year. It will require organization, but your unusual approach to everything you do will drum up the support required to push forward. Your numbers are 11, 16, 20, 25, 34, 43


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**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)
Do a little extra research to get to the bottom of what's really going on today. It's up to you to make whatever adjustments are necessary. Don't get angry—get energetic. ★★


**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)
Give extra attention to your home and the improvements you can make. Being affectionate toward your family will bring good results and the help you need to tidy up. ★★ ★


**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)
Romance is in the picture today, so spend some time with the person who interests you the most. Agreements can be made, but get everything in writing to avoid problems in the future. ★★ ★ ★


**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)
Curb your mood swings before they lead to trouble. No one will want to listen to you nag, so vow to be positive — and, in return, get positive results. ★ ★

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)
Nothing can stop you once you set your course. Make whatever calls are crucial to getting what you want. Expanded interests equal greater possibilities. ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
The more you do to compensate any negatives in your life, the better it will be for you in the future. Money may be tight if you haven't already set a strict budget. ★ ★ ★


**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Your positive outlook and helpful nature will turn even the most ill-tempered person into someone who is willing to compromise. Partnerships can take a turn for the better, but only if you are willing to stroke your partner's ego. ★ ★ ★

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Work-related matters should be at the forefront of your mind today. Do all you can to get the projects you care the most about off the ground. Don't let others get wind of your ideas. ★ ★ ★

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Little self-improvements will help to raise your self-esteem as well as bring you some much-needed attention. Social events appear to be romantically promising. ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Don't stand for criticism that isn't valid. You must not let someone else's jealousy put a damper on your day or your progress. Don't waste your time reacting to negative action. ★ ★

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You can make the plans and arrangements and be the hero if you put a little effort into the events that you feel friends and family will enjoy. Pleasure travel will result in making some new friends. ★ ★ ★ ★

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)
You should be putting all of your time and effort into your career objectives. Don't feel bad if you haven't reached your goal. Continue to pursue your dreams. ★ ★ ★

BIRTHDAY BABY: You are fidgety and always looking for something to occupy your time. You are interested in anything that is challenging and exciting. It's difficult for you to relax and do nothing.

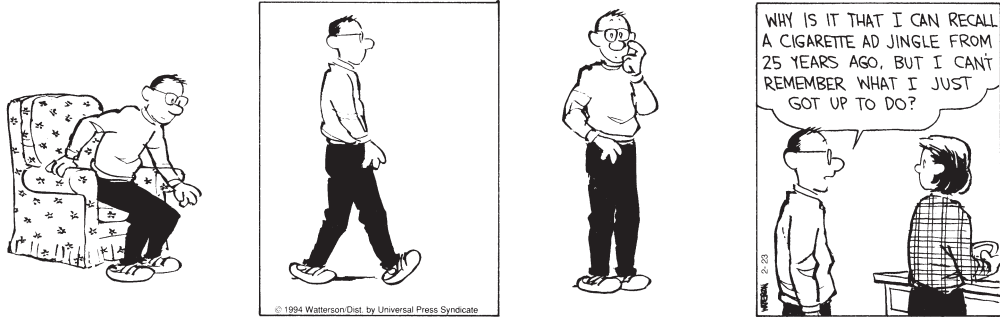
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Calvin and Hobbes



WHY IS IT THAT I CAN RECALL A CIGARETTE AD JINGLE FROM 25 YEARS AGO, BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT I JUST GOT UP TO DO?

Adam@home



BEWARE OF CRANKY OWNER UNTIL HE'S HAD HIS COFFEE

Garfield

by Jim Davis



YOU CAN SWAT ME, BUT THERE WILL BE ANOTHER SPIDER TO TAKE MY PLACE!

VERY WELL THEN

SNACK

I'LL RENEW MY NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



WHATCHA DOING?

I'M SENDING A CARE PACKAGE TO MY FAVORITE SURVIVOR.

FOOD FOR AMBER?

PANTS FOR RICHARD HATCH.

Team Standings		
Group A		
SIP-Verizon	4	0
Bayani	2	2
SMF	2	2
CCA	2	2
MDX	0	4
Group B		
Visminda	4	1
Cabalen	4	1
Mobil-LIPS	4	1
Bicol	1	3
MIFICPA	1	3
Samahang Laguna	0	5



Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	T
Yankees	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	1	7
Academy	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	2	1	8

SPORTS BRIEFS

Kwame Brown leads Wizards past Pacers



WASHINGTON (AP)—Kwame Brown had a career-high 25 points and nine rebounds Saturday as the Washington Wizards shot 63 percent in the first half and held on to beat the Indiana Pacers 107-96.

"It's coming together," said Brown, the top pick straight out of high school in the 2001 draft. "I'm a lot more comfortable. Not as jittery, taking my shots when I have it."

Brown made eight of 12 shots, nine of 10 free throws and had the better in a matchup against fellow straight-out-of-high-schoolers Jermaine O'Neal and Al Harrington. Brown, who has struggled for consistency over much of his career, is averaging 13 points and 7.8 rebounds over his last 11 games.

"Let's see some consistency," Washington coach Eddie Jordan said. "We're not going to gloat. We love what happened tonight. We're not going to say he's arrived, because it's all about consistency."

Steve Blake added a career-high 18 points for the Wizards, who never trailed and have won three of four.

Harrington scored 21 points for the Pacers, who were done in by poor outside shooting as they lost their second game in as many nights following a five-game winning streak. Indiana was 1-for-14 from 3-point range at one point in the fourth quarter and finished 5-for-22.

Warriors 105, Trail Blazers 87

In Portland, Oregon, Jason Richardson scored 31 points, including seven 3-pointers as Golden State beat Portland to end a 12-game road losing streak.

Erick Dampier added 20 rebounds and 18 points, and Speedy Claxton had 15 points, seven assists and five steals.

Zach Randolph had 23 points and seven rebounds for the Trail Blazers, while Rasheed Wallace added 13 points and nine rebounds.

Darius Miles played for the first time since being traded to the Trail



Blazers by Cleveland for guard Jeff McInnis and center Ruben Boumtje Boumtje. Miles scored 12 points in 20 minutes.

Heat 85, Knicks 77

In New York, Eddie Jones scored 26 points and added six assists as Miami handed New York its first loss at Madison Square Garden under coach Lenny Wilkens.

Lamar Odom had 19 points, nine rebounds and five assists, and Caron Butler scored 17 for the Heat as they avenged two lopsided losses to the Knicks earlier this season.

Michael Doleac scored 18 and Penny Hardaway 16 for the Knicks, whose reserves outscored their starters 39-38. Doleac and Hardaway each played 32 minutes while Keith Van Horn played 26 and Houston 23.

Cavaliers 95, 76ers 87

In Cleveland, Eric Williams scored 20 points, Dajuan Wagner added 17 and Cleveland finally slowed down Philadelphia star Allen Iverson in the fourth quarter.

Carlos Boozer had 15 points and 15 rebounds as the Cavs improved to 2-1 without rookie star LeBron James, who missed his third straight game with a sprained right ankle.

Iverson scored 32 points—21 in the third.

Glenn Robinson had 20 points for the injury-riddled Sixers, who have lost six of eight.

Hornets 98, Spurs 96

In San Antonio, Darrell Armstrong capped a season-high 35-point performance by hitting a 3-pointer from 9-meters (25 feet) with a second left to lead New Orleans to a come-from-behind victory over San Antonio.

Armstrong finished 11-for-21 from the field and was a perfect 9-for-9 from

Washington Wizards' Etan Thomas (36) scores on Indiana Pacers' Jermaine O'Neal, behind, during the first quarter Saturday, Jan. 24, 2004, in Washington. AP

the free throw line. He also nailed an 18-meter (53-foot) basket with a second left in the first half to close the Spurs' lead to 52-41.

The Spurs took an 18-point lead with five minutes left in the third, going up 69-51 after Tim Duncan dunked off an alley-oop pass from Manu Ginobili before New Orleans came back behind Armstrong.

Malik Rose led the Spurs with 20 points.

Lakers 93, Jazz 86

In Salt Lake City, Kobe Bryant returned from the injured list and scored 21 points to help the Los Angeles Lakers beat Utah to snap a nine-game road losing streak.

Bryant missed six games because of a sprained right shoulder. He felt good during the team shootaround earlier in the day and was activated.

Slava Medvedenko of the Ukraine tied his career high with 26 points for the Lakers, who let a 19-point lead slip to three twice before sealing their first road win since a 114-103 victory over Dallas on Dec. 4.

DeShawn Stevenson led Utah with 17 points.

SuperSonics 102, Clippers 97

In Seattle, Ray Allen scored 17 of his 41 points in the fourth quarter as Seattle took advantage of the Los Angeles Clippers' 4-for-19 3-point shooting.

The Sonics beat the Clippers for the third straight time this season, following two season-opening wins over Los Angeles in Japan in October.

Allen shot 14-for-23, including 6-for-10 from 3-point range, in finishing one point shy of his season best. Rashard Lewis, who had a career-high 50 points against the Clippers in the second game in Japan, added 15 points and Antonio Daniels came off the bench to score 14 for the Sonics.

The Clippers got 26 points and 16 rebounds from Elton Brand, 25 points and 10 rebounds from Maggette and 22 points from Quentin Richardson.

Mickelson, Triplett share Bob Hope lead

By KEN PETERS
AP SPORTS WRITER



LA QUINTA, Calif.

(AP)—Kirk Triplett shot a 9-under 63 Saturday, remaining bogey-free in the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic and tying Phil Mickelson for the lead at 26 under.

Triplett has 24 birdies, an eagle and 47 pars through 72 holes in the 90-hole tournament. Mickelson, making his 2004 debut, shot a 67 at Bermuda Dunes but still saw his two-shot lead evaporate. He won the Hope in 2002.

Kenny Perry, the 1995 champion, had consecutive eagles in his second 64 of the tournament and was one shot behind the co-leaders at 25-under 263.

Triplett who won the Reno-Tahoe Open last year for his second tour victory, holed a bunker shot for an eagle on No. 5 at Indian Wells Country Club, and made a twisting 20-foot birdie putt on No. 11 to highlight his fourth round.

John Daly had a rare double eagle on No. 2 at PGA West. Daly holed his second shot from 220 yards on the 514-

yard par 5. He finished the round with a 72 and was 15 under.

Jay Haas, the 1988 champion and runner-up to Mike Weir a year ago, was two shots off the pace after a 67.

Perry gained four strokes to par with his consecutive eagles on the par-5 fifth and sixth holes at La Quinta Country Club.

He hit a 4-iron that stopped 12 feet past the hole on the 516-yard No. 5 and drilled the putt.

He hit another fine approach, a 3-iron from 229 yards on the 527-yard sixth hole. He curved the ball to the right and around a bunker, and the ball rolled within 8 feet. He sank that putt to pick up four shots in two holes and go to 24 under at that point.

Perry acknowledged the applause from the gallery with a wave, and shook his head, grinning.

Five others, including 2000 winner Jesper Parnevik at 266, were within four shots of the leaders.

Mickelson, making his 2004 debut and looking for his first win in 18 months, was somewhat inconsistent during his fourth round - ranging from

a 40-foot birdie putt that he snaked into the hole to a drive into the water and a bogey on No. 10.

By comparison to Triplett's zero bogeys, Mickelson had four bogeys through the first 72 holes.

The first four rounds of the Hope are played as a pro-am on four courses, with the players alternating daily. The field was cut to the low-scoring 70 pros and ties for the final round at PGA West.

It took a 72-hole score of 277 - 11 under - or better to make the cut.

Scores traditionally are very low, with the desert courses relatively easy, and most of the par 5s reachable in two shots. Weir won at 30-under 330 last year, Mickelson also was 30 under a year earlier when he won a playoff with David Berganio Jr., and Joe Durant set a tour record for a 90-hole tournament with a 36-under 324 in 2001.

Phil Mickelson watches his drive from the 13th tee box Saturday, Jan. 24, 2004 at the Bermuda Dunes Country Club in Palm Desert, Calif., during the fourth round of the Bob Hope Chrysler tournament. AP



SPORTS BRIEFS

Table tennis singles tourney tomorrow

The Marianas Amateur Table Tennis Association is inviting the public to join the 2004 MATTA Open Singles Table Tennis Tournament.

The tournament will begin tomorrow and will continue throughout the rest of the month. It will be held Tuesday and Thursday nights at the multi-purpose room of the Gilbert C. Ada Ada Gymnasium.

The tournament format will be round-robin type of competition for the initial round where each participant will play all the other members of their division once.

Those who win the most games will move on to the elimination phase and playoffs.

Admission fee for the tournament will be \$10 per participant. Trophies will be presented to the winners of their respective divisions during an after-tournament dinner.

Children who wish to participate should inform their parents and ask for their consent. For more information please call Steve Lim at 483-7842.

21st Island Relay set for Dec. 28

Officials of the 21st Annual Christmas Island Relay announced that this year's 13.7-mile team event is set to take place during the early morning hours of December 28.

The starting point of the course will be at the Pacific Islands Club south parking lot. Participants will then head north and work their way to the finish line at the Last Command Post in Marpi.

Interested teams may register at the starting point of the race, which will be at the Pacific Islands Club south parking lot in San Antonio. Registration begins at 5:15am.

Each team, which consists of five members, must switch runners every mile. It is also required that each team has at least one female participant or a participant who is under the age of 16 or in the senior division. Prior to competing, all teams must pay a fee of \$25.

For more information about the 21st Annual Christmas Island Relay, please contact Elias Rangamar at 234-1001 or 1002.

Budweiser Cup on Jan. 12

Officials of the much-awaited Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands Budweiser Cup have decided to push back the kick of date of the 2003 island-wide men's basketball season to January 12 of next year.

So far, 10 teams have shown interest in participating in the league. Only eight, however, are confirmed to battle for the championship crown and the \$1,000 grand prize that goes along with it. Also at stake are the \$300 prize for the runner-up and the \$200 award for the second runner-up.

Each team interested in taking part in the season is required to pay an entrance fee of \$900 that must be payable to BANMI.

Aside from the prizes awarded to the top three finishers, other prizes may be claimed through a half-court shot competition and a three-point contest.

For more information, please contact Rangamar at 664-2500 or Abner Venus at 234-5911.

SPG Council launches logo contest

The South Pacific Games Council Executive Board has announced that it will be selecting a new logo for the SPG Council. The winning logo will be selected from designs submitted through the national sports federations represented on the Council.

The contest is open to everyone. The general public is invited to submit design proposals. The Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association will select one or more of the designs submitted to it, for transmission to the SPG Council.

All entries should be submitted to NMASA President Michael A. White. The selection of a new design will take place at the SPG Council assembly in Palau next year.

For further information, please contact White at telephone 234-6547.

Sequioco tops Tuesday pool

By MARK RABAGO
REPORTER



Boyet Sequioco put together another perfect run last Tuesday to win the Round Two 8-Ball Fun Tournament that evening at the pioneering sports bar.

The Olango, Zambales native triumphed three straight times after getting a bye in the opening round then turned back a courageous effort by Ike Celis to win the Tuesday 8-ball plum.

Sequioco first victimized Cherish Reyes in the second round before getting the better of Celis in the next round. He then slammed perennial pool winner Manny Mariano in the winners' bracket final to secure the first finals berth and the all-important twice-to-beat advantage.

Celis, for his part, had to work double time after being relegated to losers' bracket play by the crafty Sequioco.

The silver-haired Celis rebounded quickly and nicely by first beating Round Two owner Don Pangelinan. He then eliminated top lady player Rosemarie Moses-Arnold before moving on to the losers' bracket final opposite Mariano.

The outing against Mariano was where Celis truly shone, as the veteran pool player shocked the Filipino cue artist and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left: Third place Manny Mariano, Round Two 8-Ball Fun Tournament champion Boyet Sequioco, and runner-up Ike Celis.

arranged a championship round meeting with third round conqueror Sequioco.

Unfortunately for Celis his sparkling run apparently ran out in the deciding match against Sequioco, allowing the Hafa Adai security guard to come away with the weekly pool title. He won a handsome trophy and the \$40 top prize for his efforts.

Celis settled for the \$25 runner-up purse, while Mariano took home the \$15 third place

prize. All three men also got souvenir caps from Pacific Trading Co.

Other billiard players that graced the Tuesday 8-ball competition were Gary Ridley, Lars and Palacios.

The Round Two 8-Ball Tournament is held every Tuesday starting at 8pm and has an entry fee of \$10.

Round Two also regularly hosts two other pool tournaments through the course

of the week. Its winner-take-all pool tournament is held every Sunday starting at 1pm and costs \$5 to join.

On Thursdays, Round Two holds the exciting Miller Lite Invitational 8-Ball Tournament starting at 8pm. Entry fee is \$15 on regular days but goes up to \$25 every last Thursday of the month.

For more information on Round Two's tournaments, please contact Don Pangelinan at 234-6930.

ROCBALL

From Page 28

WATTS, wrote that that the program, which features shows on different sports from around the world, would like to attain footage, pictures, and information of Rocball for airing.

Feger also confirmed that he will send a couple of videotapes, information about the history of the sport, rules, and several articles and news clippings to Chimienti.

Eurosport reaches over 95 million homes in 54 countries.

Also being attracted to the sport is Brian Meredith, an operation manager for CrackerJax, a sports-theme

amusement park in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Meredith stated in his letter to Feger that he is currently searching for ways to make their three volleyball courts useful, and was intrigued after coming across some information about Rocball while browsing through the Internet.

Meredith added that he is trying to modify the courts to Rocball standards and is working towards starting a Rocball league.

"I can't believe that nobody in America plays this sport," Meredith stated.

Last year, Feger scheduled a special match featuring 2001 and 2002 champions DX and Jammers, which was taped and

sent to the Fox Sports Show "You Gotta See This." Fox Sports Show's Associate Producer Eric Hopkins expressed his interest in the sport. Camera crews were set up at courtside and on the roof of the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

He also sent a couple of videotapes, written information, and graphics to the Rocball Federation of India.

In related news, the World Organized Rocball Inter-scholastic and Community League's 2004 season is set to get underway on January 12.

Teams will engage in several practice rounds prior to seeing battle in the preliminary rounds, which is expected to kick off just

a couple of weeks later.

All interested players are encouraged to begin organizing squads for the league, which unlike other sporting events, doesn't require an entrance fee.

All matches will be played at the Marianas High School Green Court. Should Mother Nature interrupt with wet showers, matches will be played at the school's gym.

Feger began organizing and writing about the sport while in Japan in 1979. After two years of experimenting, the sport finally progressed into a tournament in 1983.

For more information, please contact Feger at 664-3810 or 288-8722.

LOVE

From Page 28

on the next two holes, then easily reached the par-5 11th with a 5-iron to set up his fourth straight birdie.

"I had my pompoms out, cheering him on," Woods said. "I told him on the 10th tee I was two ahead. He said, 'How's that?' I told him I was getting a stroke a hole."

Love smiled when asked about Woods' comments.

"I didn't want to stick my hand in the cage and ask him if he wanted strokes," Love said.

Indeed, Love put seven shots between him and Woods over the first nine holes, and it left himself in great position to become the

first repeat winner of the Target World Challenge since Woods created it five years ago.

Love won in 2000 with a 64 in the final round.

It would be a great way to end his best season on tour. Love won four times, and no victory bigger than his final-round 64 at The Players Championship on a cold, windy day at Sawgrass.

While this tournament only counts in the bank - \$1.2 million of the \$5 million purse going to the winner - a victory would be meaningful coming against a 16-man field of high-ranked players and three of the four major champions.

Plus, Love has played the last two rounds with Woods, a

situation that in the past hasn't allowed him to play his best.

Love has worked all year to worry about only his own game. In fact, he was having dinner with friends Friday night when they told him to beat Woods.

"K.J. is the guy to beat right now," Love said. "People don't see it the way we do. You've got to beat the golf course."

Harrington missed a 3-foot par putt on the final hole for a 70 and was in third place at 211, six shots behind. Masters champion Mike Weir, who opened with a 75, had a 3-under 69 and was at 212.

Choi is making his first appearance in the final event of the year, and would like nothing

better to end his season with a victory - even though it doesn't count in the record books and won't get him back to Kapalua.

"It would be even better ... because of the field," Choi said.

Catching up to Love could require a great round, especially the way Love is playing. The calm, warmer conditions allowed the ball to travel farther and the power hitters to play more aggressively.

Love's only bogey came on a three-putt from 15 feet, when his eyes saw only the hole and not the speed of the putt; he ran it 8 feet by and missed the par putt.

"Other than that, I felt like I could make birdie on every hole," Love said. "And I almost did."

IT'S CABALEN

From Page 28

fouling out.

In the first game, the UFO All-Stars finally notched a win after beating Bicol Express-RNV Construction 53-44.

First Game

UFO All-Stars 53—Mendiola 20, Malasarte 13, Pardinan 10, Gatdula 6, Canedo 4.

Bicol-RNV Construction 44—Jugos 15, Aldan 10, Abadilla 6,

Lopez 6, Miday 5, Mumar 2.

Second Game

Cabalen-RP Construction 121—Mendoza 25, Delos Reyes 35, Ocampo 13, Alipio 12, Arnedo 12, Jo. Gatdula 6, Magcalas 5, Sinca 3, Barbo 2.

SIP-Verizon 103—R. Alegre 19, Mendoza 18, Guiab 14, Factor 13, Rapanut 13, Villacrusis 9, T. Alegre 7, Tamondong 5, Flores 3, Garcia 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-27, 59-50, 90-79, 121-103.



Trail Blazers defeat the Lakers, 112-108

Damon Stoudamire hit two 3-pointers in the final minutes and the Portland Trail Blazers handed the Los Angeles Lakers their second loss in two nights with a 112-108 victory Saturday night.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Sequioco tops Tuesday pool

Boyet Sequioco put together another perfect run last Tuesday to win the Round Two 8-Ball Fun Tournament that evening at the pioneering sports bar.

27



28 MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2003

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

It's Cabalen against Visminda

By MARK RABAGO
REPORTER

RP Construction dethrones SIP, 121-103

Cabalen-RP Construction reaffirmed their mastery over SIP-Verizon dethroning the three-time defending champion with a 121-103 rout Sunday night that secured them a finals ticket opposite Visminda-Country House in the 2003 UFO Miller Lite Cup championship.

The Transamerica-backed squad atoned for a shaky start, which had them trail SIP-Verizon 27-24 after the opening quarter, with a terrific second quarter.

Big man Ronald Delos Reyes, the goat in Cabalen's 103-108 loss to Visminda last week, came back strong and hit a couple of triples in the second stanza to start the fireworks for Cabalen.

Youthful center Ryan Mendoza, meanwhile, complemented Delos Reyes' sharpshooting ways by scoring 12 points from point blank range also in the second quarter.

The combination of efficient outside shooting and strong inside play translated to a 59-50 halftime advantage for Cabalen.

SIP-Verizon, whose players

came in late due to a mix-up in scheduling, continued to take on water and struggled mightily in the second half.

Cabalen's aggressive game had their opponents on the defensive during the early part of the third period. Another 3-pointer by Delos Reyes at the 8:03 mark of the quarter gave Cabalen its biggest lead so far at 68-54.

A few plays later, Mendoza struck again on the inside to pad their edge further at 72-54 with 6:47 remaining in the period.

Following a putback by Delos Reyes on a miss free throw off a 3-point opportunity by Mendoza, the score stood at 89-68 with less than two minutes left in the third.

But SIP-Verizon was far from gone and retaliated with an 11-3 burst to close the quarter that cut their deficit to 90-79.

Cabalen's Mendoza also chipped in to SIP-Verizon's cause, inadvertently making a layup on SIP-Verizon's basket after an inbound play following a timeout with 31 ticks to go.

The big end-game rally, however, didn't materialize for SIP-Verizon as Cabalen

thwarted all attempts at an uprising and maintained their healthy lead all throughout the final quarter.

There were still a lot of scary moments though. With Cabalen up 96-84, SIP-Verizon forward Gary Rapanut missed a routine layup that could've cut the lead to 10 points.

At the 5:31 mark of the game Edsel Mendoza missed two tries from the free throw line and in the succeeding SIP-Verizon offensive, newly arrived Leo Factor missed the bonus free throw on a 3-point play that could've slashed Cabalen's lead again to 10 points.

With SIP-Verizon still within striking distance swingman Junar Guiab was hit with his fifth personal foul with 4:05 to go. Shortly after Factor followed him to the showers.

Playing-coach Rick Alegre's coast-to-coast layup made it 108-97 with 2:52 left in the game but that appeared to be SIP-Verizon's last gasp as Cabalen went on a 9-2 tear highlighted by an off-balanced 3-point play

by Randy Arnedo that, for all intents and purpose, sealed the game at 117-99 with 1:33 remaining.

Mendoza earned Miller Lite MVP of the Game honors after scoring

35 points, which was the same output submitted by Delos Reyes. Veterans Alex Ocampo, Jun Alipio added 13 and 12 points, respectively.

Rick Alegre topscored for SIP-Verizon with 19 points. Edsel Mendoza chipped in 16 points and Guiab 14 before

See IT'S CABALEN on Page 27



Rocball gains interest yet again

By SHAN SEMAN
REPORTER



Saipan's very own sport, Rocball, is steadily gaining more interest from the outside world.

This was learned late last week after founder and organizer James Feger announced that he has received e-mails from a couple organizations, Eurosport TV and a sports amusement park in Arizona, interested in gaining more information about the sport.

Eurosport, the most widely available sports channel in Europe, has made contact with Feger and has shown interest in learning more about the sport for future broadcasting.

In an e-mail letter to Feger, Pablo Chimienti of Eurosport's weekly program

See ROCBALL on Page 27

Love pulls away from Tiger at Sherwood

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP GOLF WRITER



THOUSAND OAKS, Calif.

(AP)—Davis Love III made four straight birdies to leave Tiger Woods in the dust and pull away from a world-class field Saturday, finishing with a 9-under 63 to build a three-shot lead in the Target World Challenge.

Despite a bogey on the par-3 17th, Love tied the tournament record set last year by Pdraig Harrington in the third round. Harrington built a record six-shot lead and hung on to win against Woods.

Love, at 11-under 205, only had a three-shot margin over K.J. Choi (65), although he won't have to worry about Woods.

As most of the leaders were posting birdies on a sunny, benign afternoon at Sherwood, the tournament host gave up ground with a three-putt bogey



Tiger Woods reacts to his approach shot on the 18th hole during the third round of the Target World Challenge, Saturday, Dec. 13, 2003, in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

on No. 3 and then hit his tee shot into the water for a bogey on the next hole.

Woods lost all hope on the final hole, hitting off the pine

straw and coming up well short, into the water, and he had to make a 15-footer for bogey. He had a 72 and was nine shots back at 214.

Meanwhile, Love played some of his best golf since early in the year. "I was confident all day," Love said. "I'm getting more and more comfortable playing with Tiger and around the lead."

Love was tied with Choi and Justin Leonard when his 4-iron on the difficult par-3 8th climbed just enough to hop into the fringe and stop about 6 feet above the hole for one of only two birdies in the round.

Love holed putts of 20 feet and 15 feet for birdies

See LOVE on Page 27

